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#3 IN A NINE-ISSUE LIMITED SERIES
SECRET WARS II
THE BEYONDER CONQUERS THE WORLD!
ALTSTEVE

Beyond time, space, and the myriad dimensions lies another universe to which our own is as a droplet of water to the ocean. The One Who Is All in that other universe has learned of our universe and has come here to walk among us, that he might come to understand the essence of humanity.

The fragile Earth trembles beneath his feet, dreading his godlike omnipotence.

Stan Lee PRESENTS: SECRET WARS™ II

THIS WORLD IS MINE!

THIS MORNING, THE ONE FROM BEYOND DECIDED TO ASSUME HUMAN FORM AND STICK TO IT-- AND, EXCEPT FOR A FEW BRIEF RETREATS INTO HIS ENERGY FORM, HE HAS.
IT'S BEEN A LONG DAY, FULL OF MANY PUZZLING, INTRIGUING AND INTENSE NEW EXPERIENCES ... AND NOW HE IS WEARY--
--ANOTHER NEW EXPERIENCE!
HEY, BUDDY! THIS IS A NO PARKING ZONE, HERE!
WHAT ARE YOU--? DEAF? GET UP!
WALK
VIDEO
XXX
HOT HOT
JIM'S
387

JIM SHOOTER SCRIPTER | AL MILGROM PENCILER | STEVE LEIALOHA INKER | JOE ROSEN LETTERER | CHRISTIE SCHEELE COLORING | BOB BUDIANSKY EDITOR

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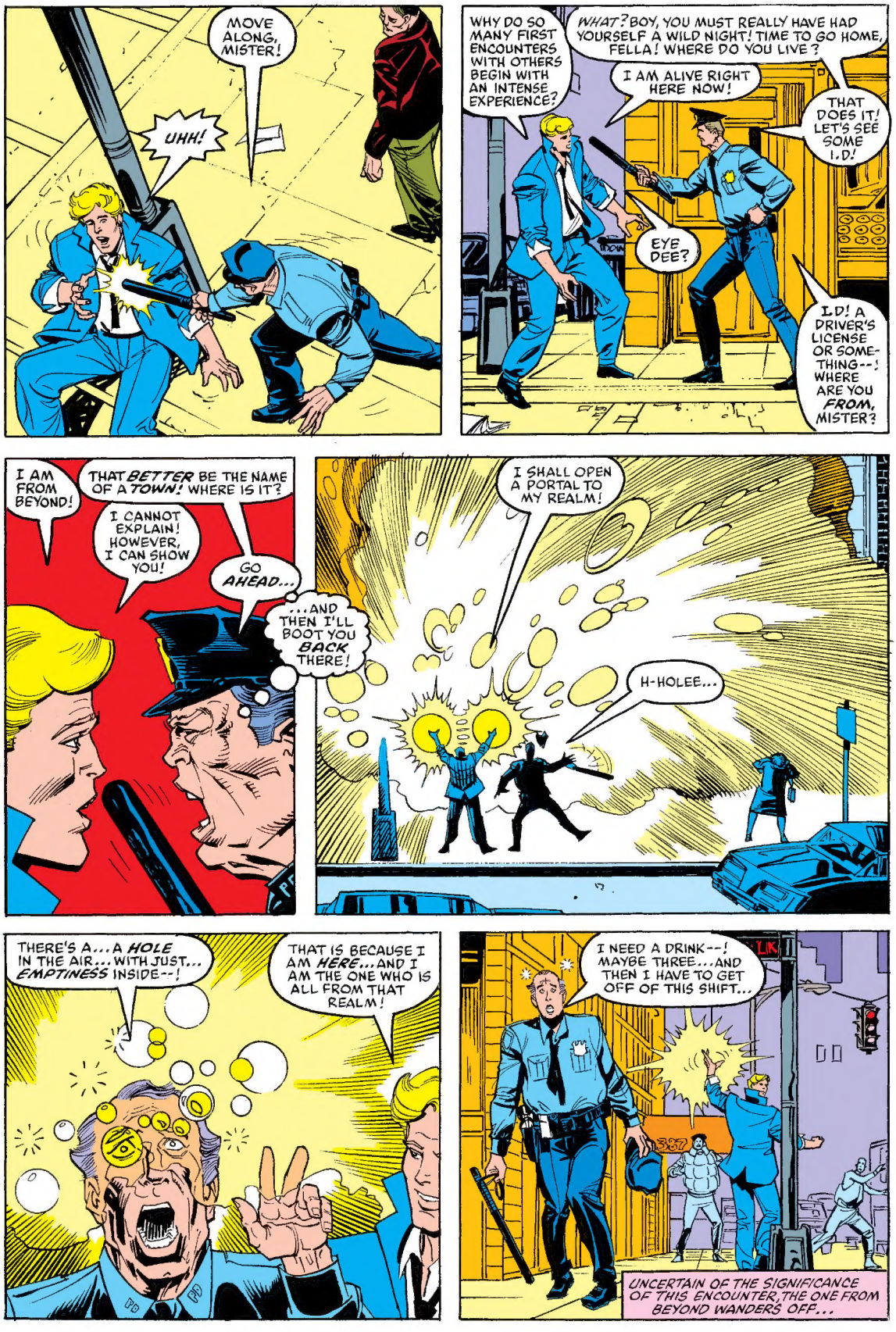
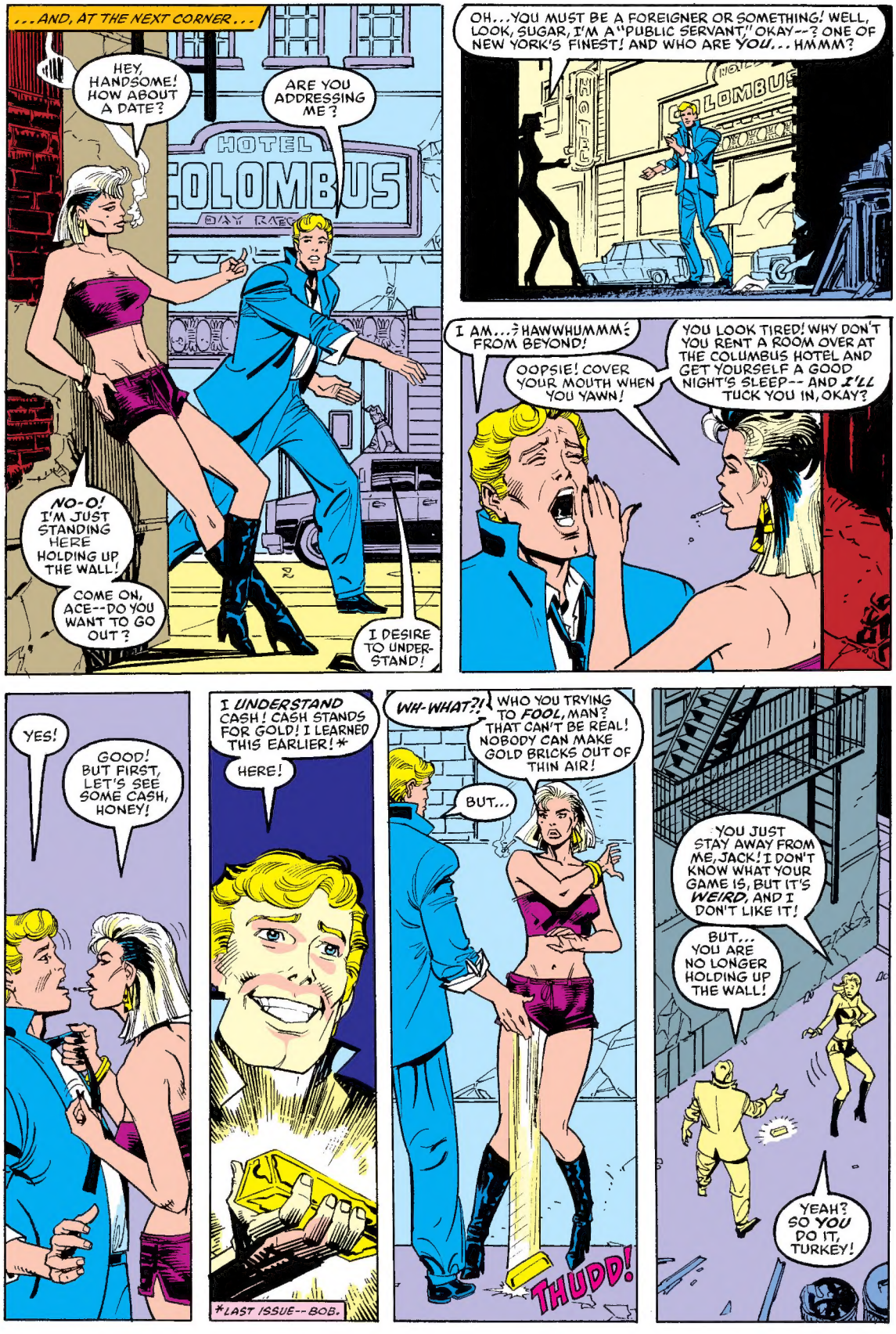
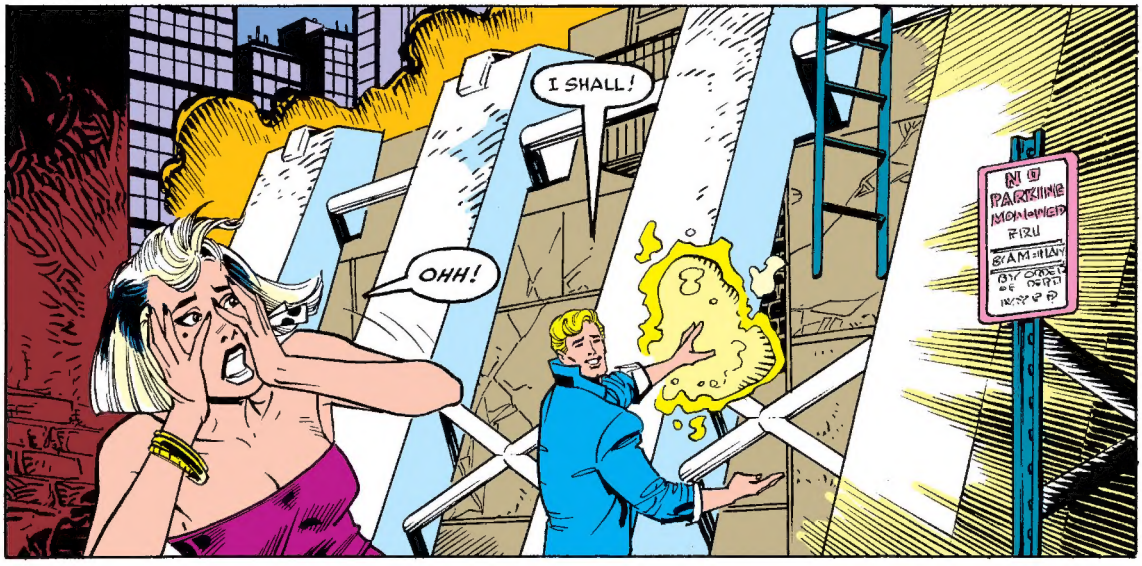
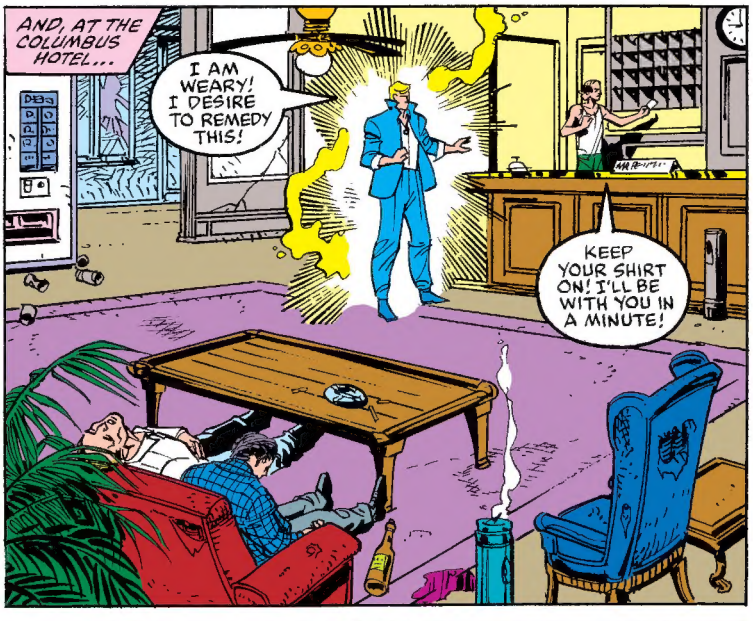

MOVE ALONG, MISTER!
UHH!
WHY DO SO MANY FIRST ENCOUNTERS WITH OTHERS BEGIN WITH AN INTENSE EXPERIENCE?
WHAT? BOY, YOU MUST REALLY HAVE HAD YOURSELF A WILD NIGHT! TIME TO GO HOME, FELLA! WHERE DO YOU LIVE?
I AM ALIVE RIGHT HERE NOW!
THAT DOES IT! LET'S SEE SOME I.D!
EYE DEE?
I.D! A DRIVER'S LICENSE OR SOMETHING--! WHERE ARE YOU FROM, MISTER?
I AM FROM BEYOND!
THAT BETTER BE THE NAME OF A TOWN! WHERE IS IT?
I CANNOT EXPLAIN! HOWEVER, I CAN SHOW YOU!
GO AHEAD...
...AND THEN I'LL BOOT YOU BACK THERE!
I SHALL OPEN A PORTAL TO MY REALM!
H-HOLEE...
THERE'S A...A HOLE IN THE AIR...WITH JUST... EMPTINESS INSIDE--!
THAT IS BECAUSE I AM HERE...AND I AM THE ONE WHO IS ALL FROM THAT REALM!
I NEED A DRINK--! MAYBE THREE...AND THEN I HAVE TO GET OFF OF THIS SHIFT...
UNCERTAIN OF THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS ENCOUNTER, THE ONE FROM BEYOND WANDERS OFF...


...AND, AT THE NEXT CORNER...
HEY, HANDSOME! HOW ABOUT A DATE?
ARE YOU ADDRESSING ME?
HOTEL COLOMBUS
DAY RATES
NO-O! I'M JUST STANDING HERE HOLDING UP THE WALL!
COME ON, ACE--DO YOU WANT TO GO OUT?
I DESIRE TO UNDER-STAND!
OH...YOU MUST BE A FOREIGNER OR SOMETHING! WELL, LOOK, SUGAR, I'M A "PUBLIC SERVANT," OKAY--? ONE OF NEW YORK'S FINEST! AND WHO ARE YOU... HMMM?
HOTEL COLOMBUS
I AM...? HAWWHUMMM: FROM BEYOND!
OOPSIE! COVER YOUR MOUTH WHEN YOU YAWN!
YOU LOOK TIRED! WHY DON'T YOU RENT A ROOM OVER AT THE COLUMBUS HOTEL AND GET YOURSELF A GOOD NIGHT'S SLEEP-- AND I'LL TUCK YOU IN, OKAY?
YES!
GOOD! BUT FIRST, LET'S SEE SOME CASH, HONEY!
I UNDERSTAND CASH! CASH STANDS FOR GOLD! I LEARNED THIS EARLIER! *
HERE!
*LAST ISSUE--BOB.
WH-WHAT?!
WHO YOU TRYING TO FOOL, MAN? THAT CAN'T BE REAL! NOBODY CAN MAKE GOLD BRICKS OUT OF THIN AIR!
BUT...
THUDD!
YOU JUST STAY AWAY FROM ME, JACK! I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOUR GAME IS, BUT IT'S WEIRD, AND I DON'T LIKE IT!
BUT... YOU ARE NO LONGER HOLDING UP THE WALL!
YEAH? SO YOU DO IT, TURKEY!

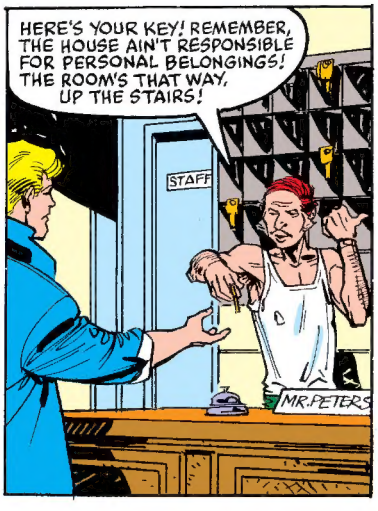

I SHALL!
OHH!
NO PARKING MONDAYS FIRE

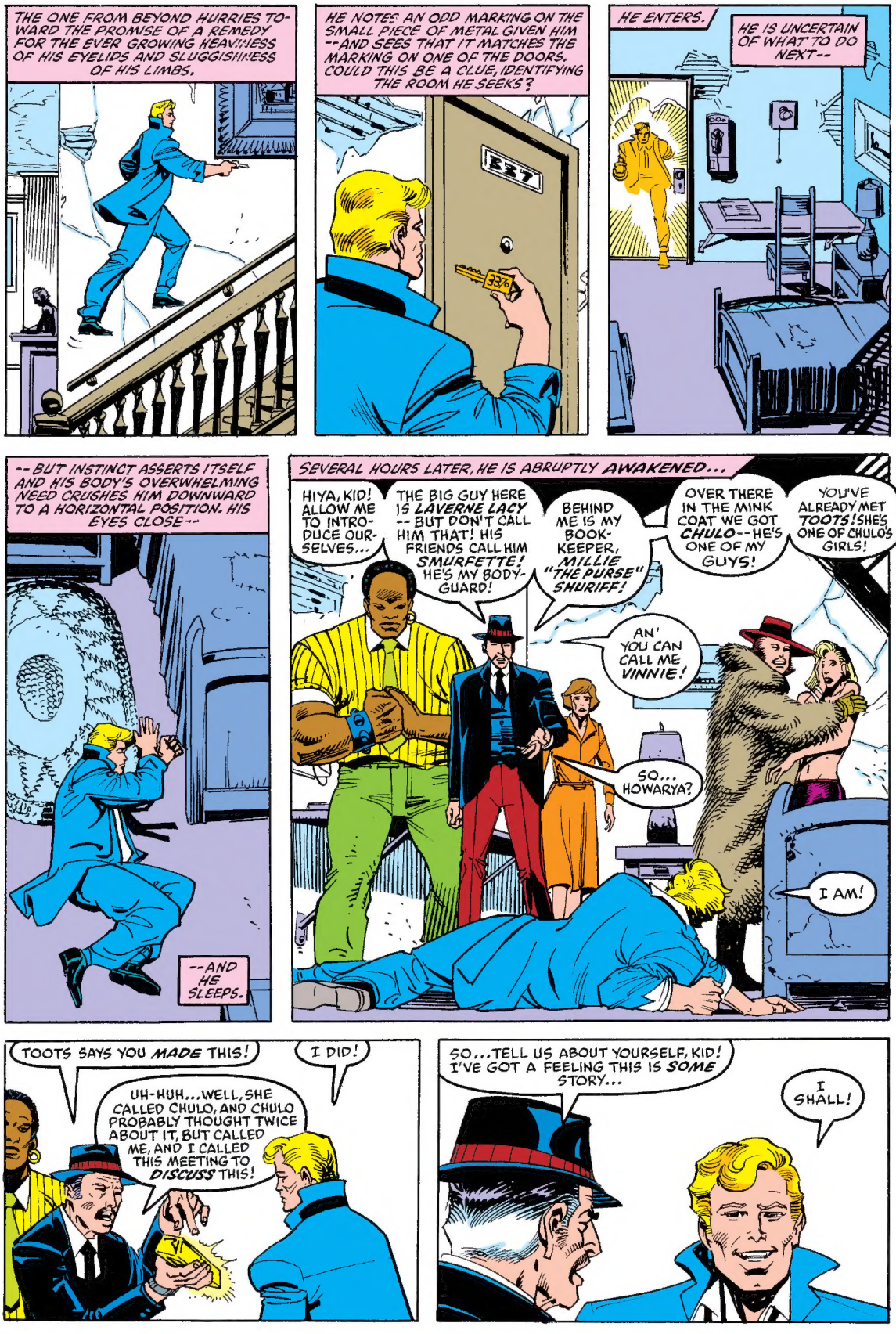
OH, MAN--! HE'S FADING OUT--LIKE HE WAS JUST A FRAGMENT OF MY IMAGINATION!
B-BUT THOSE SUPPORTS--! THAT GOLD BRICK!
CHULO! HELP!


AND, AT THE COLUMBUS HOTEL...
I AM WEARY! I DESIRE TO REMEDY THIS!
KEEP YOUR SHIRT ON! I'LL BE WITH YOU IN A MINUTE!

NOW...WHAT'S ON YOUR MIND?
ANOTHER HUMAN INSTRUCTED ME TO COME HERE, RENT A ROOM, AND GET A GOOD NIGHT'S SLEEP!
YEAH? OKAY I'LL GIVE YOU OUR BEST ROOM! AND YOU CAN EVEN PAY ME IN THE MORNING--

--BECAUSE YOU LOOK SO TRUST-WORTHY...
...NOT TO MENTION RICH, JUDGING FROM THOSE SNAZZY THREADS! I'LL JUST SNEAK IN LATER AND TAKE HIS WHOLE WAD! SERVES HIM RIGHT, IF HE'S STUPID ENOUGH TO STAY IN A FLEABAG LIKE THIS!


HERE'S YOUR KEY! REMEMBER, THE HOUSE AIN'T RESPONSIBLE FOR PERSONAL BELONGINGS! THE ROOM'S THAT WAY, UP THE STAIRS!
STAFF
MR. PETERS


THE ONE FROM BEYOND HURRIES TOWARD THE PROMISE OF A REMEDY FOR THE EVER GROWING HEAVINESS OF HIS EYELIDS AND SLUGGISHNESS OF HIS LIMBS.
HE NOTES AN ODD MARKING ON THE SMALL PIECE OF METAL GIVEN HIM --AND SEES THAT IT MATCHES THE MARKING ON ONE OF THE DOORS. COULD THIS BE A CLUE, IDENTIFYING THE ROOM HE SEEKS?
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HE ENTERS.
HE IS UNCERTAIN OF WHAT TO DO NEXT--
-- BUT INSTINCT ASSERTS ITSELF AND HIS BODY'S OVERWHELMING NEED CRUSHES HIM DOWNWARD TO A HORIZONTAL POSITION. HIS EYES CLOSE--
--AND HE SLEEPS.
SEVERAL HOURS LATER, HE IS ABRUPTLY AWAKENED...
HIYA, KID! ALLOW ME TO INTRODUCE OURSELVES...
THE BIG GUY HERE IS LAVERNE LACY -- BUT DON'T CALL HIM THAT! HIS FRIENDS CALL HIM SMURFETTE! HE'S MY BODYGUARD!
BEHIND ME IS MY BOOKKEEPER, MILLIE "THE PURSE" SHURIFF!
OVER THERE IN THE MINK COAT WE GOT CHULO--HE'S ONE OF MY GUYS!
YOU'VE ALREADY MET TOOTS! SHE'S ONE OF CHULO'S GIRLS!
AN' YOU CAN CALL ME VINNIE!
SO... HOWARYA?
I AM!
TOOTS SAYS YOU MADE THIS!
I DID!
UH-HUH...WELL, SHE CALLED CHULO, AND CHULO PROBABLY THOUGHT TWICE ABOUT IT, BUT CALLED ME, AND I CALLED THIS MEETING TO DISCUSS THIS!
SO...TELL US ABOUT YOURSELF, KID! I'VE GOT A FEELING THIS IS SOME STORY...
I SHALL!

"IN MY REALM, I WAS ALL, THE ENTIRETY OF MY OWN UNIVERSE! I KNEW ONLY OF MY OWN ONENESS --

"--UNTIL AN *EVENT* OF GREAT MAGNITUDE IN YOUR REALM OPENED A PINHOLE IN MINE!

"THROUGH THE PINHOLE, I OBSERVED EARTH! FOR YEARS, AS YOU RECKON TIME, I WATCHED!

"I SAW THAT THERE WERE MANY HERE AND THAT THEY WERE *INCOMPLETE!* I HAD NO KNOWLEDGE OF THIS INCOMPLETENESS-- THIS THING CALLED...

"...*DESIRE!*

"IT PUZZLED ME! I SOUGHT TO STUDY IT!

"OF THE MANY WHO DWELT UPON OR VISITED EARTH WHILE I WATCHED, I CHOSE A FEW BEINGS OF GREAT POWER, PRESENCE AND PALPABLE DESIRE!

"I CAUSED *ONE* AMONG THESE -- THE LARGEST ONE, CALLED *GALACTUS* -- TO GATHER THE OTHERS -- AND TO LEAVE A WAY OPEN FOR OTHER BEINGS TO COME IF THEY CHOSE!

"MANY DID!

"I OFFERED THEM A *PRIZE* AND SET THEM UPON EACH OTHER TO SEE WHAT DESIRE WOULD CAUSE THEM TO DO!

"THEY *FOUGHT!*

"ONE AMONG THEM, THOUGH, DESIRED MORE THAN THE PRIZE AND STROVE AGAINST ME! A *MOTE* AGAINST A UNIVERSE..!

"AND YET, HE *ATTAINED* HIS DESIRE! HE SUCCEEDED IN DRAWING AWAY THE GREATER PART OF MY ENERGY!

"THUS, THE ONE CALLED *DOOM* BECAME MIGHTY BEYOND YOUR CONCEPTION!

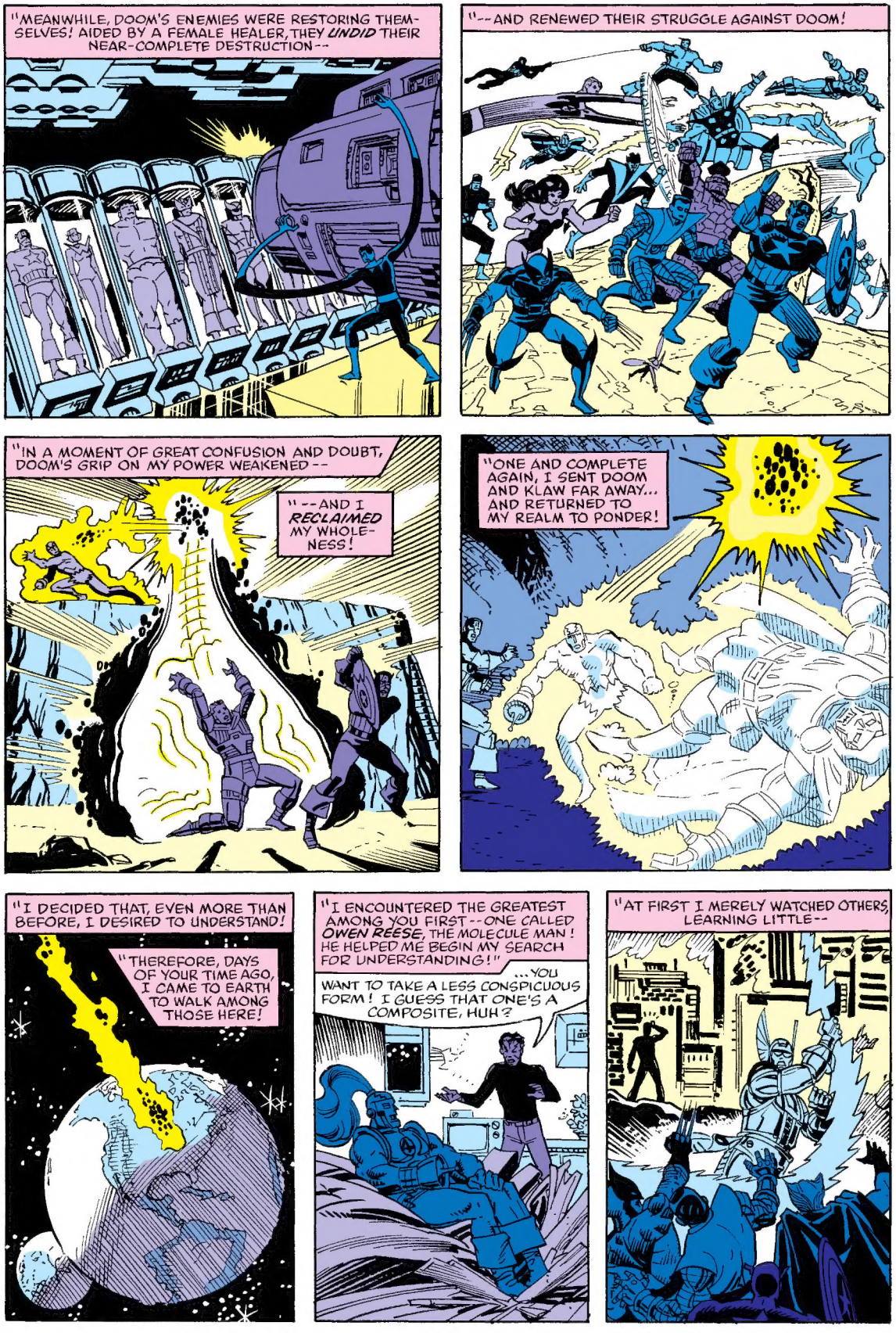
"FALSELY BELIEVING THAT I HAD CEASED TO EXIST, HE TURNED HIS ATTENTION TO HIS ENEMIES FROM YOUR REALM -- AND ULTIMATELY DESTROYED THEM!

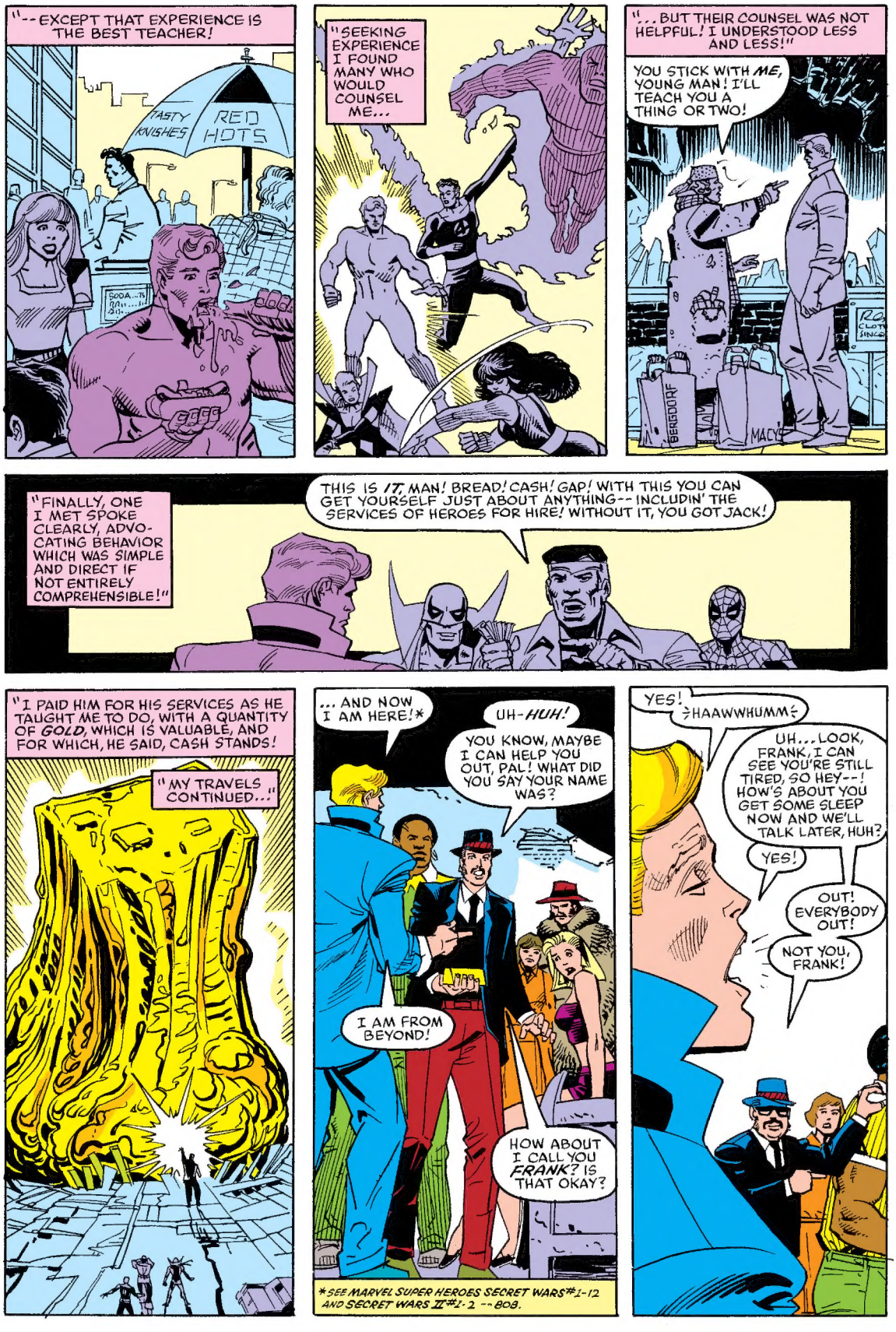
"AND I? I CONTINUED TO EXIST -- BUT, FOR THE FIRST TIME, I WAS *INCOMPLETE!* AT LAST, I KNEW *DESIRE!*

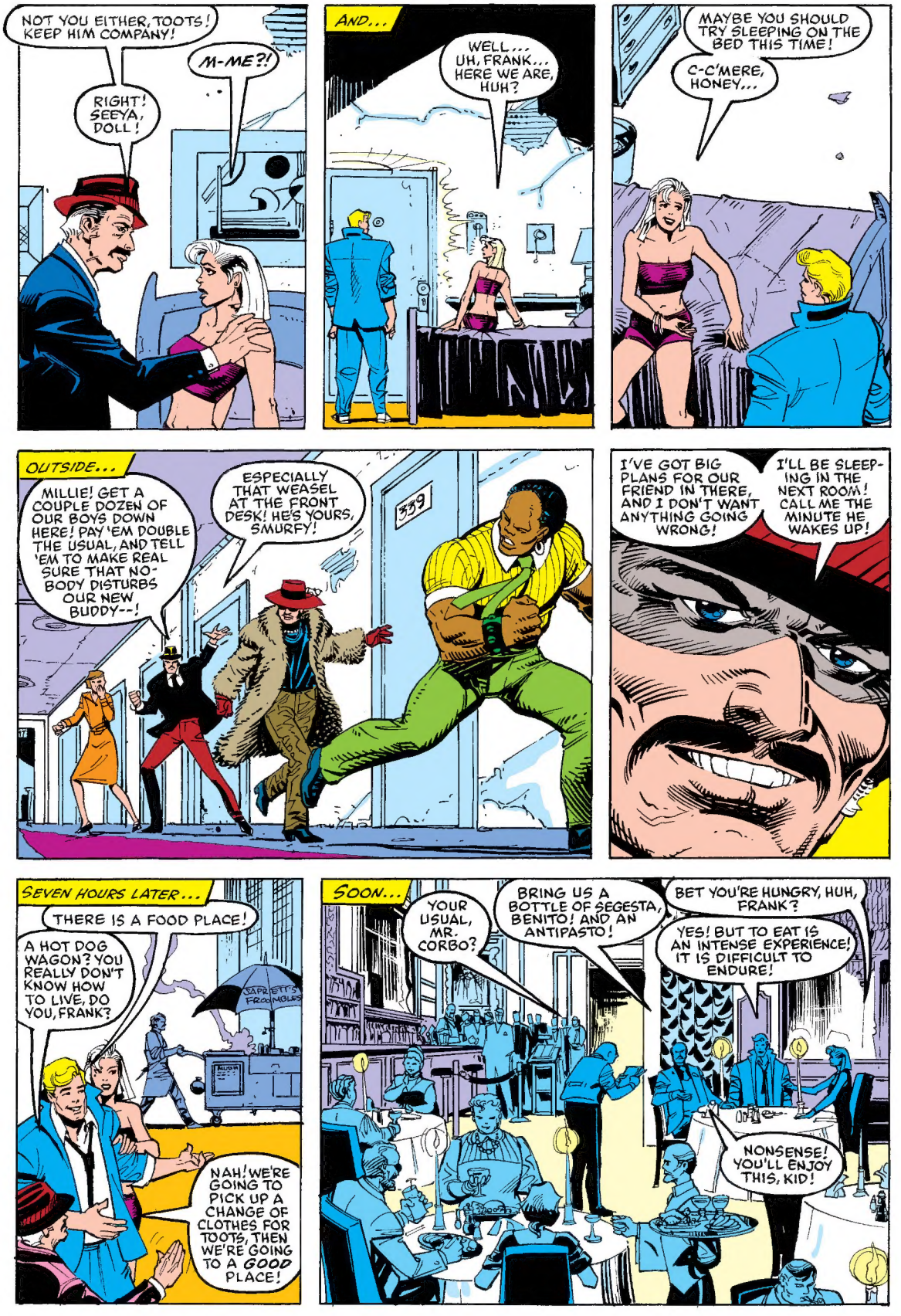
"I DESIRED TO BE WHOLE AGAIN -- BUT I WAS NOT STRONG ENOUGH TO RECLAIM MY POWER BY FORCE!

"NOT KNOWING HOW TO SATISFY MY DESIRE, I SOUGHT AID! I INHABITED THE BODY OF DOOM'S COMPANION, *KLAW*, AND CAUSED HIM TO USE ALL OF HIS FACULTIES -- HIS WITS, HIS CUNNING, HIS GUILE ON MY BEHALF!

"HE ATTACKED DOOM IN A MANNER WHICH I DO NOT COMPREHEND -- SUBTLY, PSYCHOLOGICALLY, PLAYING UPON THINGS OF THE HUMAN MIND CALLED FEARS AND DOUBTS!


"MEANWHILE, DOOM'S ENEMIES WERE RESTORING THEMSELVES! AIDED BY A FEMALE HEALER, THEY *UNDID* THEIR NEAR-COMPLETE DESTRUCTION--
"--AND RENEWED THEIR STRUGGLE AGAINST DOOM!
"IN A MOMENT OF GREAT CONFUSION AND DOUBT, DOOM'S GRIP ON MY POWER WEAKENED--
"--AND I *RECLAIMED* MY WHOLENESS!
"ONE AND COMPLETE AGAIN, I SENT DOOM AND KLAW FAR AWAY... AND RETURNED TO MY REALM TO PONDER!
"I DECIDED THAT, EVEN MORE THAN BEFORE, I DESIRED TO UNDERSTAND!
"THEREFORE, DAYS OF YOUR TIME AGO, I CAME TO EARTH TO WALK AMONG THOSE HERE!
"I ENCOUNTERED THE GREATEST AMONG YOU FIRST--ONE CALLED *OWEN REESE*, THE MOLECULE MAN! HE HELPED ME BEGIN MY SEARCH FOR UNDERSTANDING!"
...YOU WANT TO TAKE A LESS CONSPICUOUS FORM! I GUESS THAT ONE'S A COMPOSITE, HUH?
"AT FIRST I MERELY WATCHED OTHERS, LEARNING LITTLE--


"--EXCEPT THAT EXPERIENCE IS THE BEST TEACHER!
TASTY KNISHES
RED HOTS
"SEEKING EXPERIENCE I FOUND MANY WHO WOULD COUNSEL ME...
"...BUT THEIR COUNSEL WAS NOT HELPFUL! I UNDERSTOOD LESS AND LESS!"
YOU STICK WITH ME, YOUNG MAN! I'LL TEACH YOU A THING OR TWO!
BERGDORF
MACY'S
"FINALLY, ONE I MET SPOKE CLEARLY, ADVOCATING BEHAVIOR WHICH WAS SIMPLE AND DIRECT IF NOT ENTIRELY COMPREHENSIBLE!"
THIS IS IT, MAN! BREAD! CASH! GAP! WITH THIS YOU CAN GET YOURSELF JUST ABOUT ANYTHING--INCLUDIN' THE SERVICES OF HEROES FOR HIRE! WITHOUT IT, YOU GOT JACK!
"I PAID HIM FOR HIS SERVICES AS HE TAUGHT ME TO DO, WITH A QUANTITY OF GOLD, WHICH IS VALUABLE, AND FOR WHICH, HE SAID, CASH STANDS!
"MY TRAVELS CONTINUED..."
... AND NOW I AM HERE!*
UH-HUH!
YOU KNOW, MAYBE I CAN HELP YOU OUT, PAL! WHAT DID YOU SAY YOUR NAME WAS?
I AM FROM BEYOND!
HOW ABOUT I CALL YOU FRANK? IS THAT OKAY?
*SEE MARVEL SUPER HEROES SECRET WARS #1-12 AND SECRET WARS II #1-2 --BOB.
YES!
÷HAAWWHUMM÷
UH...LOOK, FRANK, I CAN SEE YOU'RE STILL TIRED, SO HEY--! HOW'S ABOUT YOU GET SOME SLEEP NOW AND WE'LL TALK LATER, HUH?
YES!
OUT! EVERYBODY OUT!
NOT YOU, FRANK!


NOT YOU EITHER, TOOTS! KEEP HIM COMPANY!
M-ME?!
RIGHT! SEEYA, DOLL!
AND...
WELL... UH, FRANK... HERE WE ARE, HUH?
MAYBE YOU SHOULD TRY SLEEPING ON THE BED THIS TIME!
C-C'MERE, HONEY...
OUTSIDE...
MILLIE! GET A COUPLE DOZEN OF OUR BOYS DOWN HERE! PAY 'EM DOUBLE THE USUAL, AND TELL 'EM TO MAKE REAL SURE THAT NOBODY DISTURBS OUR NEW BUDDY--!
ESPECIALLY THAT WEASEL AT THE FRONT DESK! HE'S YOURS, SMURFY!
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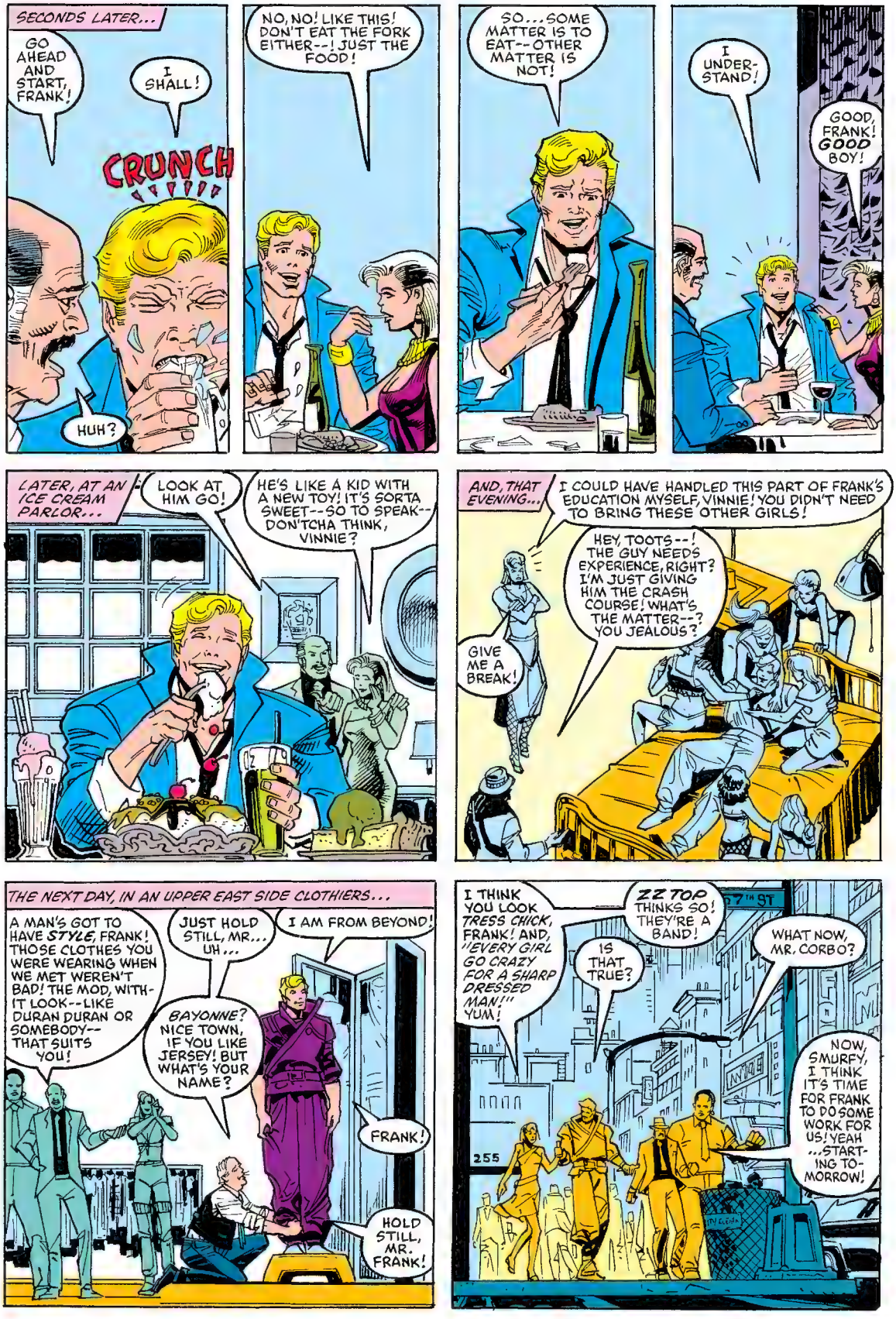
I'VE GOT BIG PLANS FOR OUR FRIEND IN THERE, AND I DON'T WANT ANYTHING GOING WRONG!
I'LL BE SLEEPING IN THE NEXT ROOM! CALL ME THE MINUTE HE WAKES UP!
SEVEN HOURS LATER...
THERE IS A FOOD PLACE!
A HOT DOG WAGON? YOU REALLY DON'T KNOW HOW TO LIVE, DO YOU, FRANK?
JAPRETTI'S FRANKFURTERS
NAH! WE'RE GOING TO PICK UP A CHANGE OF CLOTHES FOR TOOTS, THEN WE'RE GOING TO A GOOD PLACE!
SOON...
YOUR USUAL, MR. CORBO?
BRING US A BOTTLE OF SEGESTA, BENITO! AND AN ANTIPASTO!
BET YOU'RE HUNGRY, HUH, FRANK?
YES! BUT TO EAT IS AN INTENSE EXPERIENCE! IT IS DIFFICULT TO ENDURE!
NONSENSE! YOU'LL ENJOY THIS, KID!


SECONDS LATER...
GO AHEAD AND START, FRANK!
I SHALL!
CRUNCH
HUH?
NO, NO! LIKE THIS! DON'T EAT THE FORK EITHER--! JUST THE FOOD!
SO... SOME MATTER IS TO EAT--OTHER MATTER IS NOT!
I UNDER-STAND!
GOOD, FRANK! GOOD BOY!
LATER, AT AN ICE CREAM PARLOR...
LOOK AT HIM GO!
HE'S LIKE A KID WITH A NEW TOY! IT'S SORTA SWEET--SO TO SPEAK--DON'TCHA THINK, VINNIE?
AND, THAT EVENING...
I COULD HAVE HANDLED THIS PART OF FRANK'S EDUCATION MYSELF, VINNIE! YOU DIDN'T NEED TO BRING THESE OTHER GIRLS!
HEY, TOOTS--! THE GUY NEEDS EXPERIENCE, RIGHT? I'M JUST GIVING HIM THE CRASH COURSE! WHAT'S THE MATTER--? YOU JEALOUS?
GIVE ME A BREAK!
THE NEXT DAY, IN AN UPPER EAST SIDE CLOTHIERS...
A MAN'S GOT TO HAVE STYLE, FRANK! THOSE CLOTHES YOU WERE WEARING WHEN WE MET WEREN'T BAD! THE MOD, WITH-IT LOOK--LIKE DURAN DURAN OR SOMEBODY--THAT SUITS YOU!
JUST HOLD STILL, MR... UH...
I AM FROM BEYOND!
BAYONNE? NICE TOWN, IF YOU LIKE JERSEY! BUT WHAT'S YOUR NAME?
FRANK!
HOLD STILL, MR. FRANK!
I THINK YOU LOOK TRESS CHICK, FRANK! AND, "EVERY GIRL GO CRAZY FOR A SHARP DRESSED MAN!" YUM!
ZZ TOP THINKS SO! THEY'RE A BAND!
IS THAT TRUE?
WHAT NOW, MR. CORBO?
NOW, SMURFY, I THINK IT'S TIME FOR FRANK TO DO SOME WORK FOR US! YEAH ...START-ING TO-MORROW!
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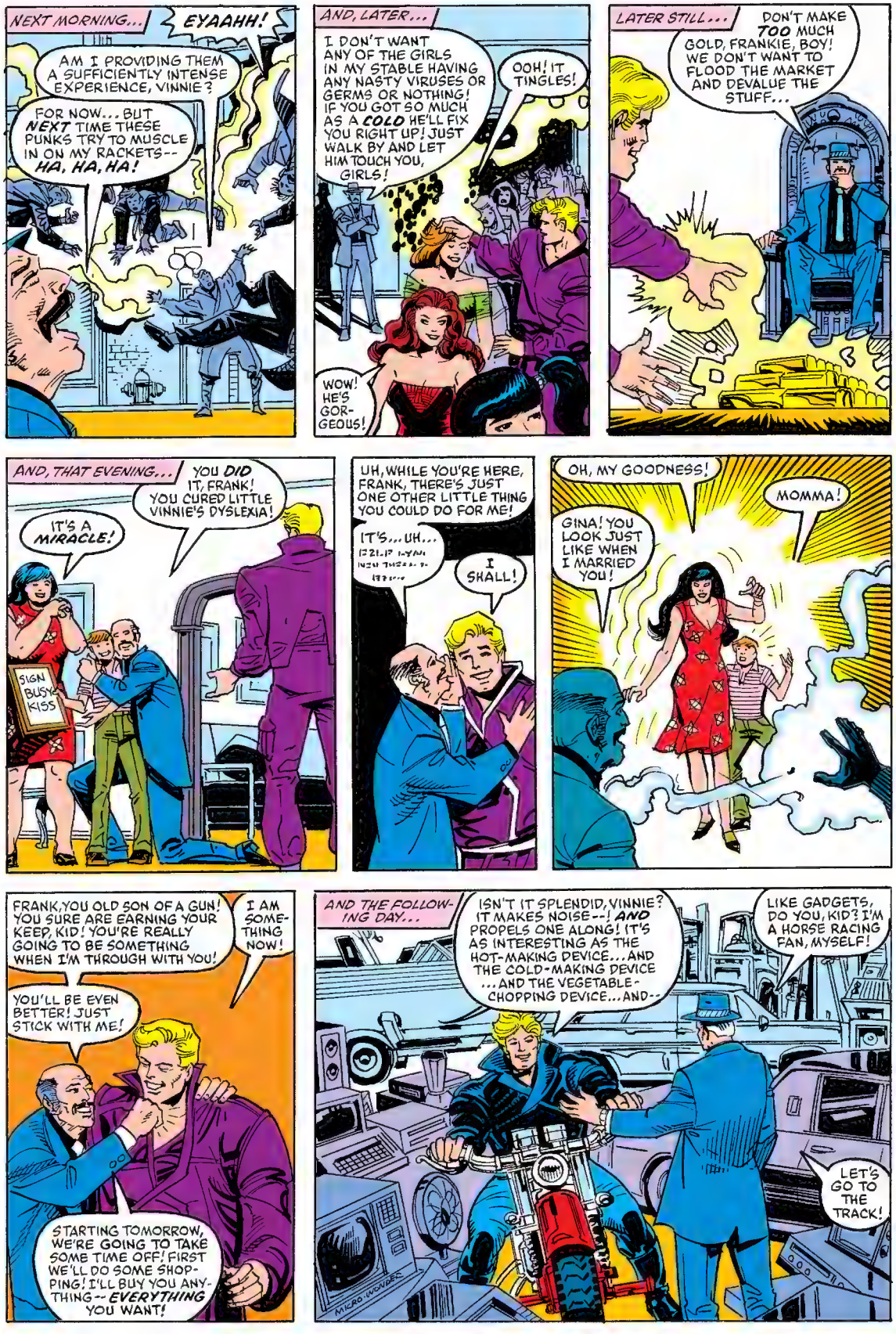
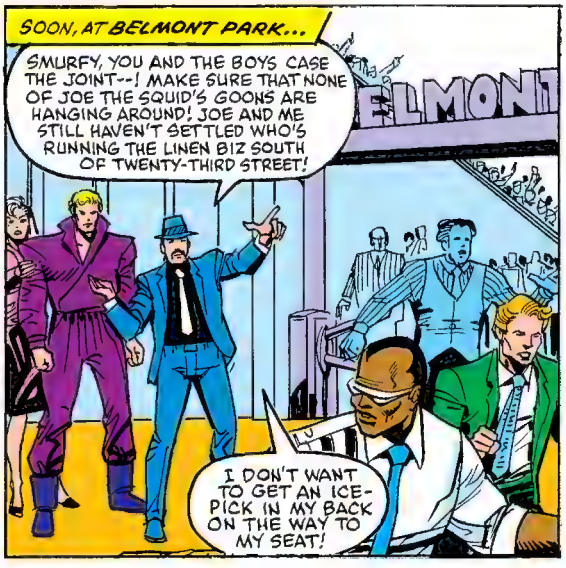
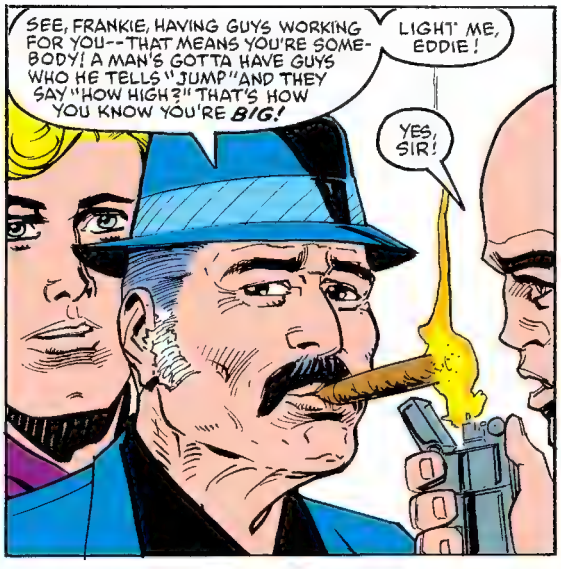
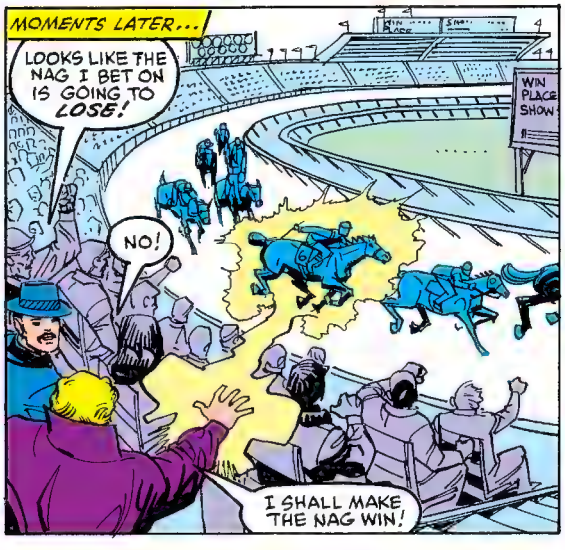
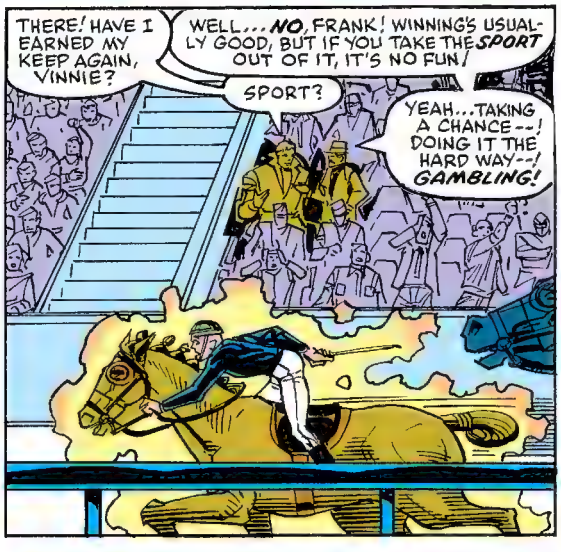
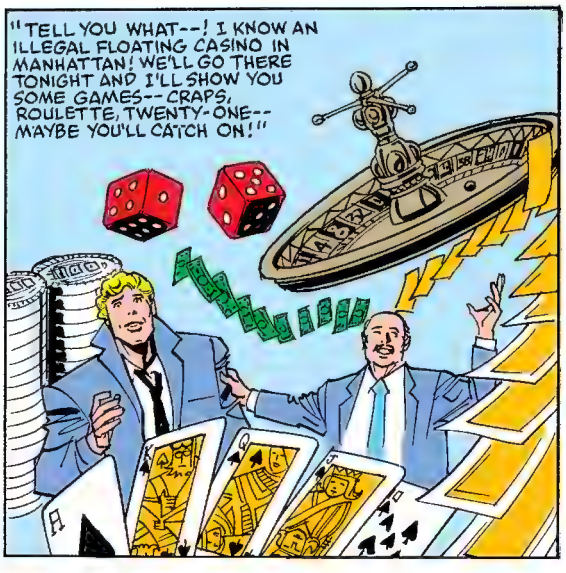

NEXT MORNING...
EYAAHH!
AM I PROVIDING THEM A SUFFICIENTLY INTENSE EXPERIENCE, VINNIE?
FOR NOW... BUT NEXT TIME THESE PUNKS TRY TO MUSCLE IN ON MY RACKETS-- HA, HA, HA!
AND, LATER...
I DON'T WANT ANY OF THE GIRLS IN MY STABLE HAVING ANY NASTY VIRUSES OR GERMS OR NOTHING! IF YOU GOT SO MUCH AS A COLD HE'LL FIX YOU RIGHT UP! JUST WALK BY AND LET HIM TOUCH YOU, GIRLS!
OOH! IT TINGLES!
WOW! HE'S GOR-GEOUS!
LATER STILL...
DON'T MAKE TOO MUCH GOLD, FRANKIE, BOY! WE DON'T WANT TO FLOOD THE MARKET AND DEVALUE THE STUFF...
AND, THAT EVENING...
YOU DID IT, FRANK! YOU CURED LITTLE VINNIE'S DYSLEXIA!
IT'S A MIRACLE!
SIGN
BUSY
KISS
UH, WHILE YOU'RE HERE, FRANK, THERE'S JUST ONE OTHER LITTLE THING YOU COULD DO FOR ME!
IT'S... UH...
I SHALL!
OH, MY GOODNESS!
MOMMA!
GINA! YOU LOOK JUST LIKE WHEN I MARRIED YOU!
FRANK, YOU OLD SON OF A GUN! YOU SURE ARE EARNING YOUR KEEP, KID! YOU'RE REALLY GOING TO BE SOMETHING WHEN I'M THROUGH WITH YOU!
I AM SOME-THING NOW!
YOU'LL BE EVEN BETTER! JUST STICK WITH ME!
STARTING TOMORROW, WE'RE GOING TO TAKE SOME TIME OFF! FIRST WE'LL DO SOME SHOP-PING! I'LL BUY YOU ANY-THING-- EVERYTHING YOU WANT!
AND THE FOLLOW-ING DAY...
ISN'T IT SPLENDID, VINNIE? IT MAKES NOISE--! AND PROPELS ONE ALONG! IT'S AS INTERESTING AS THE HOT-MAKING DEVICE... AND THE COLD-MAKING DEVICE ...AND THE VEGETABLE-CHOPPING DEVICE... AND--
LIKE GADGETS, DO YOU, KID? I'M A HORSE RACING FAN, MYSELF!
LET'S GO TO THE TRACK!
MICRO-WONDER

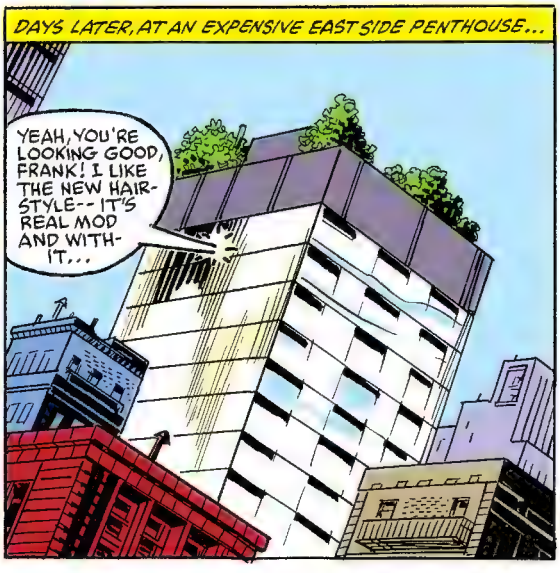

SOON, AT BELMONT PARK...
SMURFY, YOU AND THE BOYS CASE THE JOINT--! MAKE SURE THAT NONE OF JOE THE SQUID'S GOONS ARE HANGING AROUND! JOE AND ME STILL HAVEN'T SETTLED WHO'S RUNNING THE LINEN BIZ SOUTH OF TWENTY-THIRD STREET!
I DON'T WANT TO GET AN ICE-PICK IN MY BACK ON THE WAY TO MY SEAT!

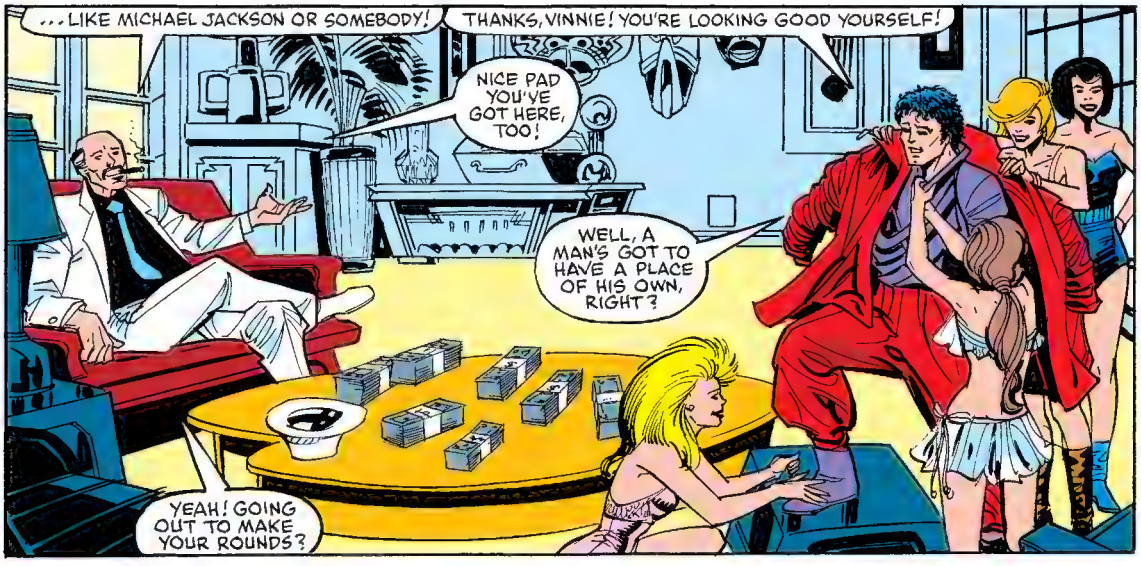

SEE, FRANKIE, HAVING GUYS WORKING FOR YOU--THAT MEANS YOU'RE SOMEBODY! A MAN'S GOTTA HAVE GUYS WHO HE TELLS "JUMP" AND THEY SAY "HOW HIGH?" THAT'S HOW YOU KNOW YOU'RE BIG!
LIGHT ME, EDDIE!
YES, SIR!


MOMENTS LATER...
LOOKS LIKE THE NAG I BET ON IS GOING TO LOSE!
NO!
I SHALL MAKE THE NAG WIN!


THERE! HAVE I EARNED MY KEEP AGAIN, VINNIE?
WELL... NO, FRANK! WINNING'S USUALLY GOOD, BUT IF YOU TAKE THE SPORT OUT OF IT, IT'S NO FUN!
SPORT?
YEAH... TAKING A CHANCE--! DOING IT THE HARD WAY--! GAMBLING!

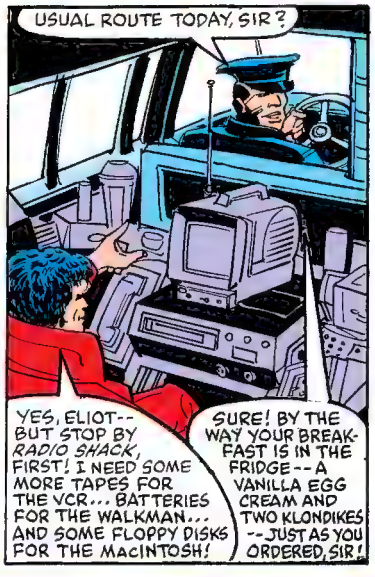

"TELL YOU WHAT--! I KNOW AN ILLEGAL FLOATING CASINO IN MANHATTAN! WE'LL GO THERE TONIGHT AND I'LL SHOW YOU SOME GAMES-- CRAPS, ROULETTE, TWENTY-ONE-- MAYBE YOU'LL CATCH ON!"


DAYS LATER, AT AN EXPENSIVE EAST SIDE PENTHOUSE...
YEAH, YOU'RE LOOKING GOOD, FRANK! I LIKE THE NEW HAIR-STYLE-- IT'S REAL MOD AND WITH-IT...

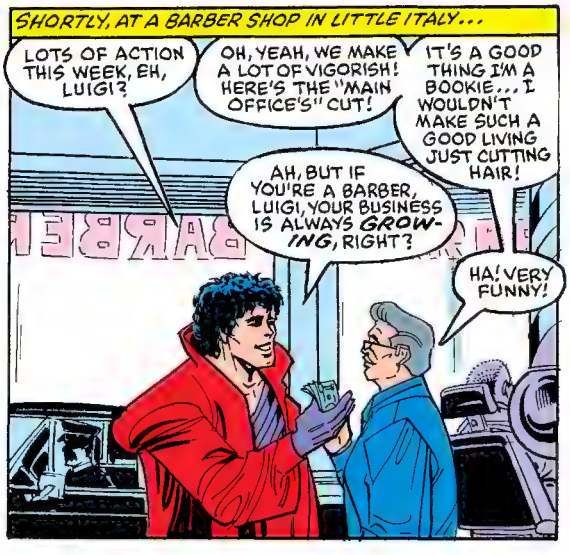

...LIKE MICHAEL JACKSON OR SOMEBODY!
THANKS, VINNIE! YOU'RE LOOKING GOOD YOURSELF!
NICE PAD YOU'VE GOT HERE, TOO!
WELL, A MAN'S GOT TO HAVE A PLACE OF HIS OWN, RIGHT?
YEAH! GOING OUT TO MAKE YOUR ROUNDS?

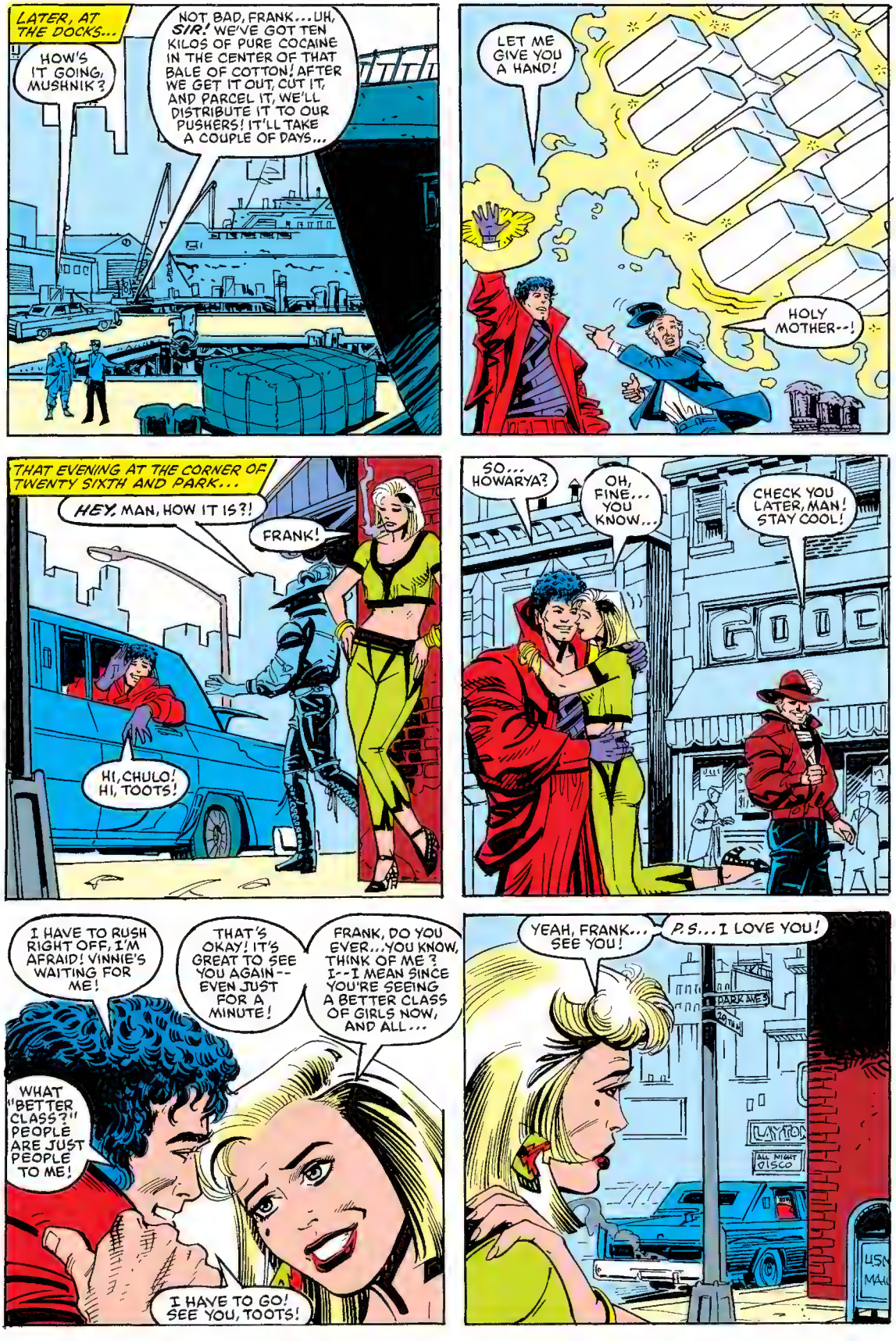
A MAN'S GOT TO TAKE CARE OF BUSINESS! RIGHT?
RIGHT, KID! HEY, WHY DON'T YOU STOP BY MY HOUSE LATER! WE'LL TALK, OKAY?
SURE, VINNIE! CATCH YOU LATER!

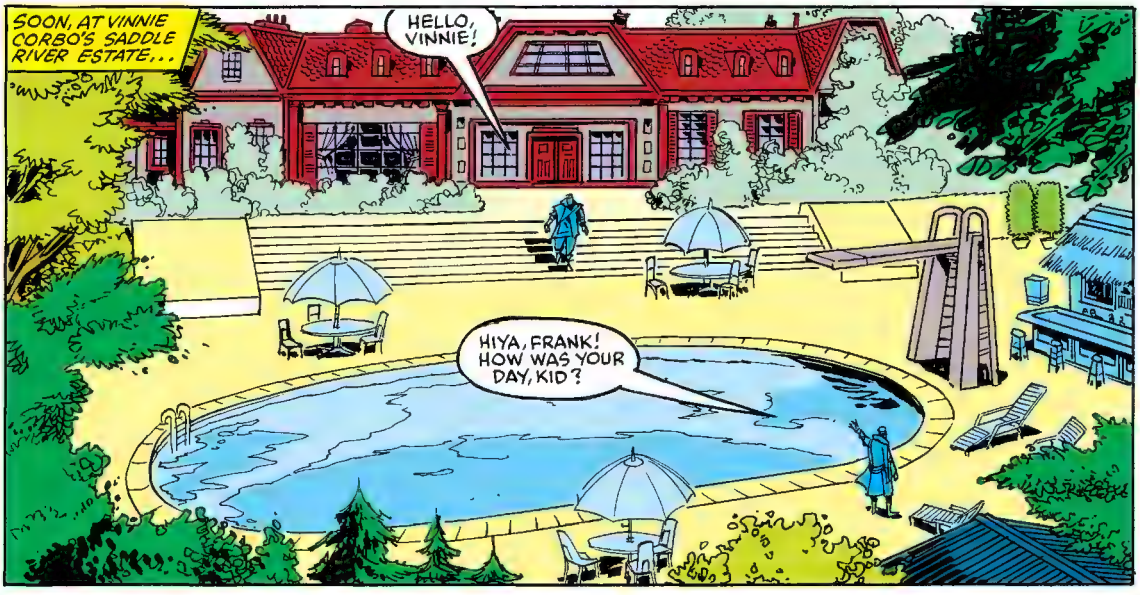
GOOD MORNING, ARTHUR!
'MORNING, MR. B! NICE DAY!


USUAL ROUTE TODAY, SIR?
YES, ELIOT-- BUT STOP BY *RADIO SHACK*, FIRST! I NEED SOME MORE TAPES FOR THE VCR... BATTERIES FOR THE WALKMAN... AND SOME FLOPPY DISKS FOR THE MacINTOSH!
SURE! BY THE WAY YOUR BREAKFAST IS IN THE FRIDGE-- A VANILLA EGG CREAM AND TWO KLONDIKES --JUST AS YOU ORDERED, SIR!

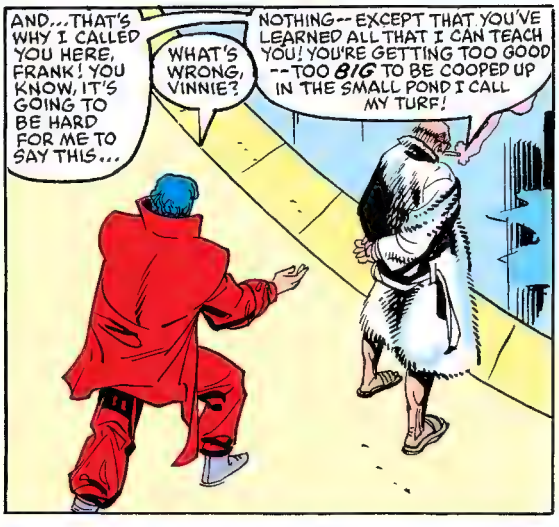
WILL YOU BE NEEDING MORE THINGS TO CHOP UP IN YOUR CUISINART, SIR?
WHRRRR
NOT YET! I STILL HAVE SOME VEGETABLES AND SOME STYRO-FOAM LEFT!
QUEASI-ART

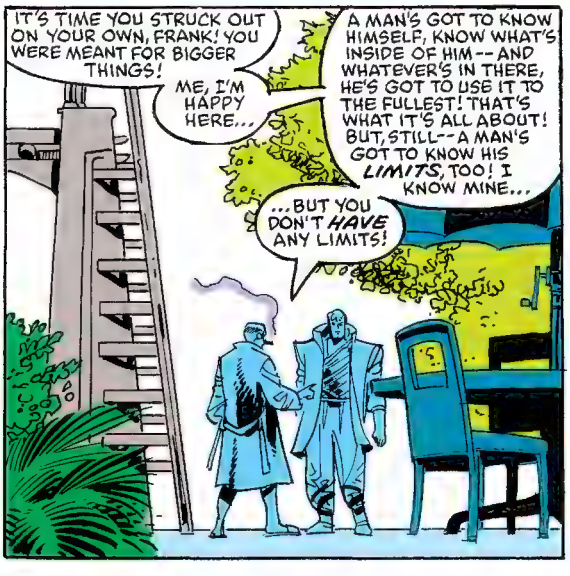

SHORTLY, AT A BARBER SHOP IN LITTLE ITALY...
LOTS OF ACTION THIS WEEK, EH, LUIGI?
OH, YEAH, WE MAKE A LOT OF VIGORISH! HERE'S THE "MAIN OFFICE'S" CUT!
IT'S A GOOD THING I'M A BOOKIE... I WOULDN'T MAKE SUCH A GOOD LIVING JUST CUTTING HAIR!
AH, BUT IF YOU'RE A BARBER, LUIGI, YOUR BUSINESS IS ALWAYS *GROWING*, RIGHT?
HA! VERY FUNNY!


LATER, AT THE DOCKS...
HOW'S IT GOING, MUSHNIK?
NOT BAD, FRANK... UH, SIR! WE'VE GOT TEN KILOS OF PURE COCAINE IN THE CENTER OF THAT BALE OF COTTON! AFTER WE GET IT OUT, CUT IT, AND PARCEL IT, WE'LL DISTRIBUTE IT TO OUR PUSHERS! IT'LL TAKE A COUPLE OF DAYS...
LET ME GIVE YOU A HAND!
HOLY MOTHER--!
THAT EVENING AT THE CORNER OF TWENTY SIXTH AND PARK...
HEY, MAN, HOW IT IS?!
FRANK!
HI, CHULO! HI, TOOTS!
SO... HOWARYA?
OH, FINE... YOU KNOW...
CHECK YOU LATER, MAN! STAY COOL!
GOOD
I HAVE TO RUSH RIGHT OFF, I'M AFRAID! VINNIE'S WAITING FOR ME!
THAT'S OKAY! IT'S GREAT TO SEE YOU AGAIN -- EVEN JUST FOR A MINUTE!
FRANK, DO YOU EVER... YOU KNOW, THINK OF ME? I--I MEAN SINCE YOU'RE SEEING A BETTER CLASS OF GIRLS NOW, AND ALL...
WHAT "BETTER CLASS?" PEOPLE ARE JUST PEOPLE TO ME!
I HAVE TO GO! SEE YOU, TOOTS!
YEAH, FRANK... SEE YOU!
P.S... I LOVE YOU!
DARK MES
20TH
CLAYTON
ALL NIGHT DISCO

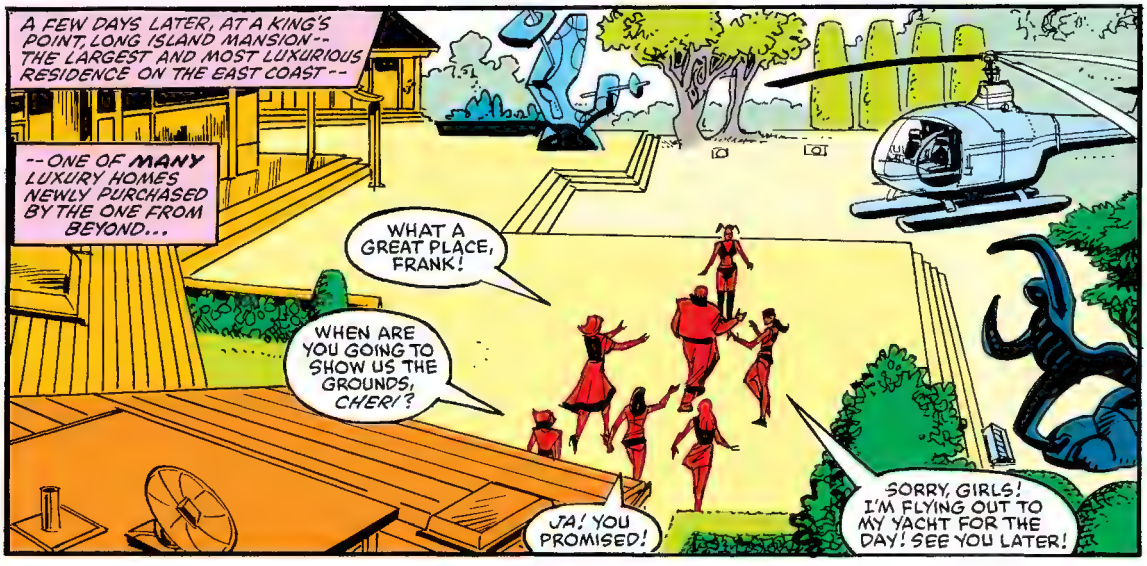

SOON, AT VINNIE CORBO'S SADDLE RIVER ESTATE...
HELLO, VINNIE!
HIYA, FRANK! HOW WAS YOUR DAY, KID?

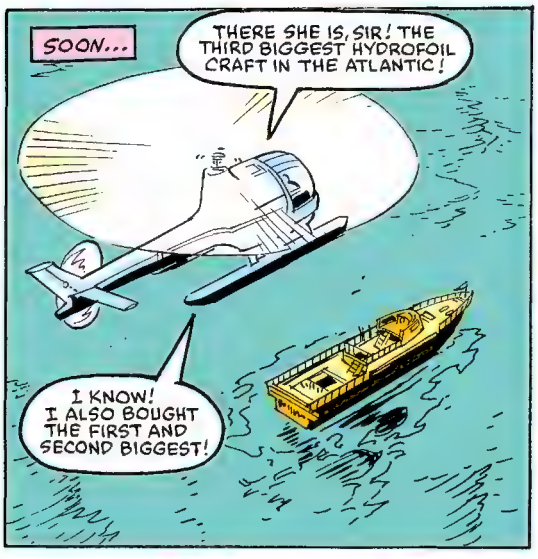
GOOD! I MADE THE ROUNDS... STASHED THE TAKE... IT WAS A GOOD DAY!
GLAD TO HEAR IT! YOU'VE BEEN DOING REAL GOOD... MAKING THIS OLD MAN PROUD OF YOU!

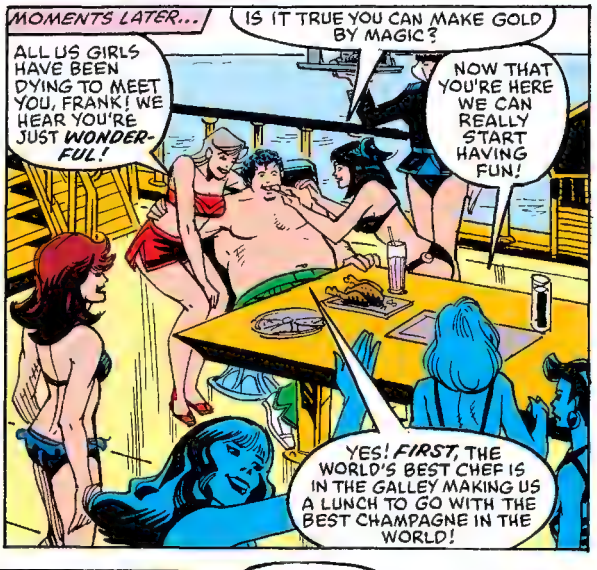

AND... THAT'S WHY I CALLED YOU HERE, FRANK! YOU KNOW, IT'S GOING TO BE HARD FOR ME TO SAY THIS...
WHAT'S WRONG, VINNIE?
NOTHING -- EXCEPT THAT YOU'VE LEARNED ALL THAT I CAN TEACH YOU! YOU'RE GETTING TOO GOOD -- TOO BIG TO BE COOPED UP IN THE SMALL POND I CALL MY TURF!


IT'S TIME YOU STRUCK OUT ON YOUR OWN, FRANK! YOU WERE MEANT FOR BIGGER THINGS!
ME, I'M HAPPY HERE...
A MAN'S GOT TO KNOW HIMSELF, KNOW WHAT'S INSIDE OF HIM -- AND WHATEVER'S IN THERE, HE'S GOT TO USE IT TO THE FULLEST! THAT'S WHAT IT'S ALL ABOUT! BUT, STILL -- A MAN'S GOT TO KNOW HIS LIMITS, TOO! I KNOW MINE...
...BUT YOU DON'T HAVE ANY LIMITS!

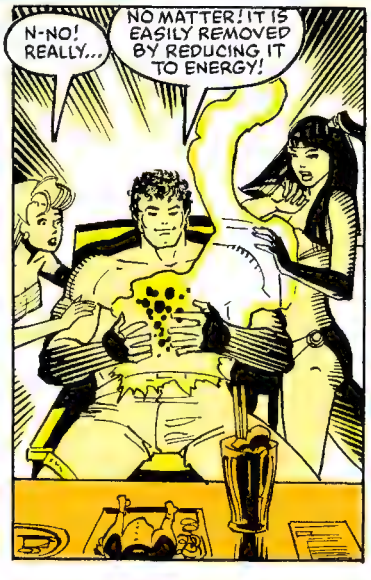
IT'S TIME FOR YOU TO MOVE ON! I'M GOING TO MISS YOU, KID! YOU'VE BEEN LIKE A SON TO ME!
SEE YOU, VINNIE!
IF YOU EVER NEED ME -- NEED MY ADVICE OR ANYTHING -- I'M HERE, OKAY?

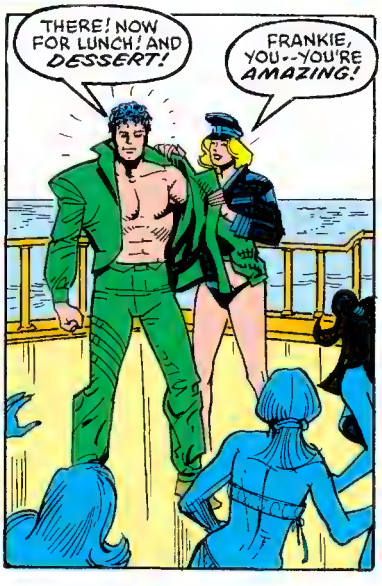

A FEW DAYS LATER, AT A KING'S POINT, LONG ISLAND MANSION-- THE LARGEST AND MOST LUXURIOUS RESIDENCE ON THE EAST COAST --
--ONE OF MANY LUXURY HOMES NEWLY PURCHASED BY THE ONE FROM BEYOND...
WHAT A GREAT PLACE, FRANK!
WHEN ARE YOU GOING TO SHOW US THE GROUNDS, CHER!?
JA! YOU PROMISED!
SORRY, GIRLS! I'M FLYING OUT TO MY YACHT FOR THE DAY! SEE YOU LATER!

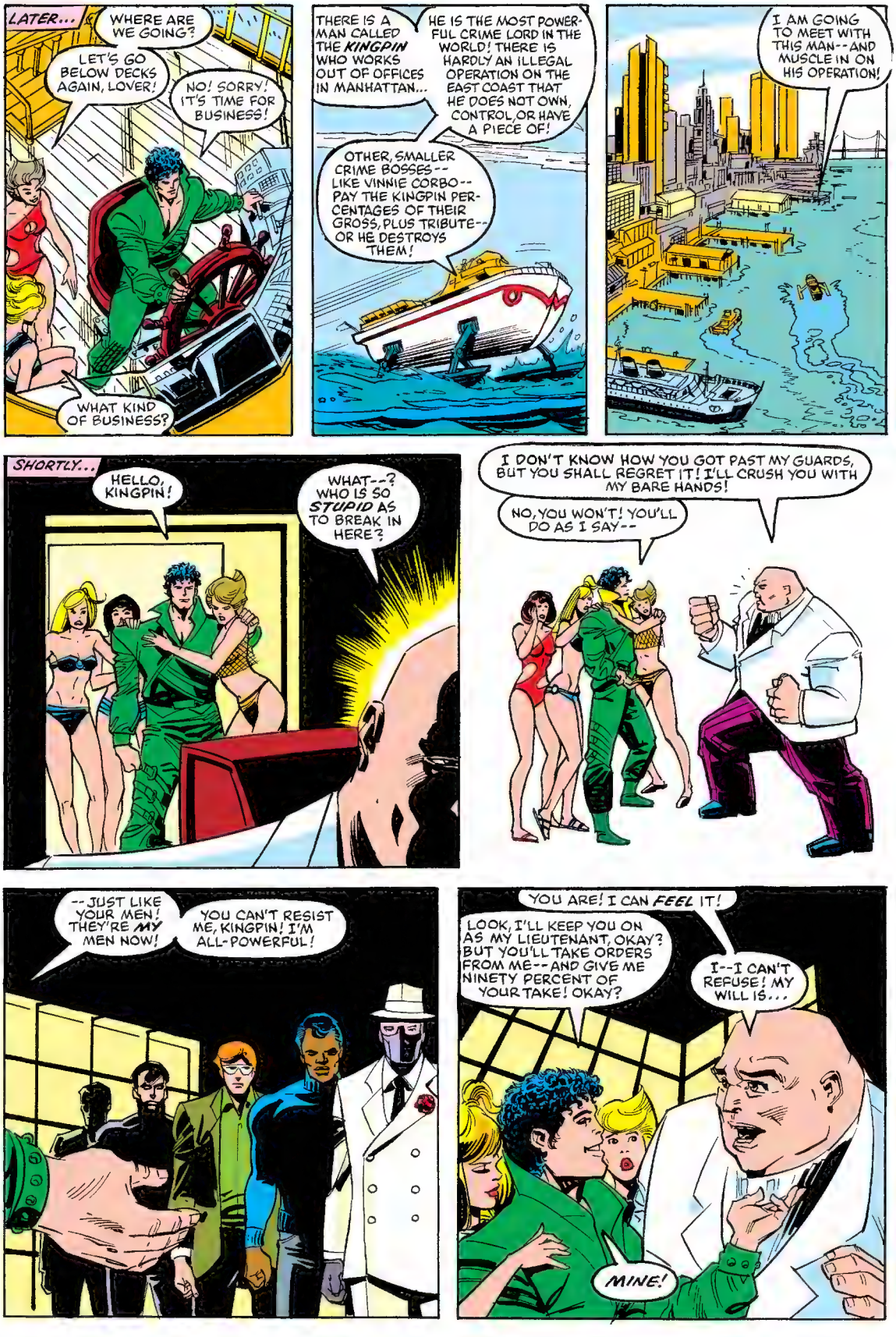

SOON...
THERE SHE IS, SIR! THE THIRD BIGGEST HYDROFOIL CRAFT IN THE ATLANTIC!
I KNOW! I ALSO BOUGHT THE FIRST AND SECOND BIGGEST!


MOMENTS LATER...
ALL US GIRLS HAVE BEEN DYING TO MEET YOU, FRANK! WE HEAR YOU'RE JUST WONDERFUL!
IS IT TRUE YOU CAN MAKE GOLD BY MAGIC?
NOW THAT YOU'RE HERE WE CAN REALLY START HAVING FUN!
YES! FIRST, THE WORLD'S BEST CHEF IS IN THE GALLEY MAKING US A LUNCH TO GO WITH THE BEST CHAMPAGNE IN THE WORLD!

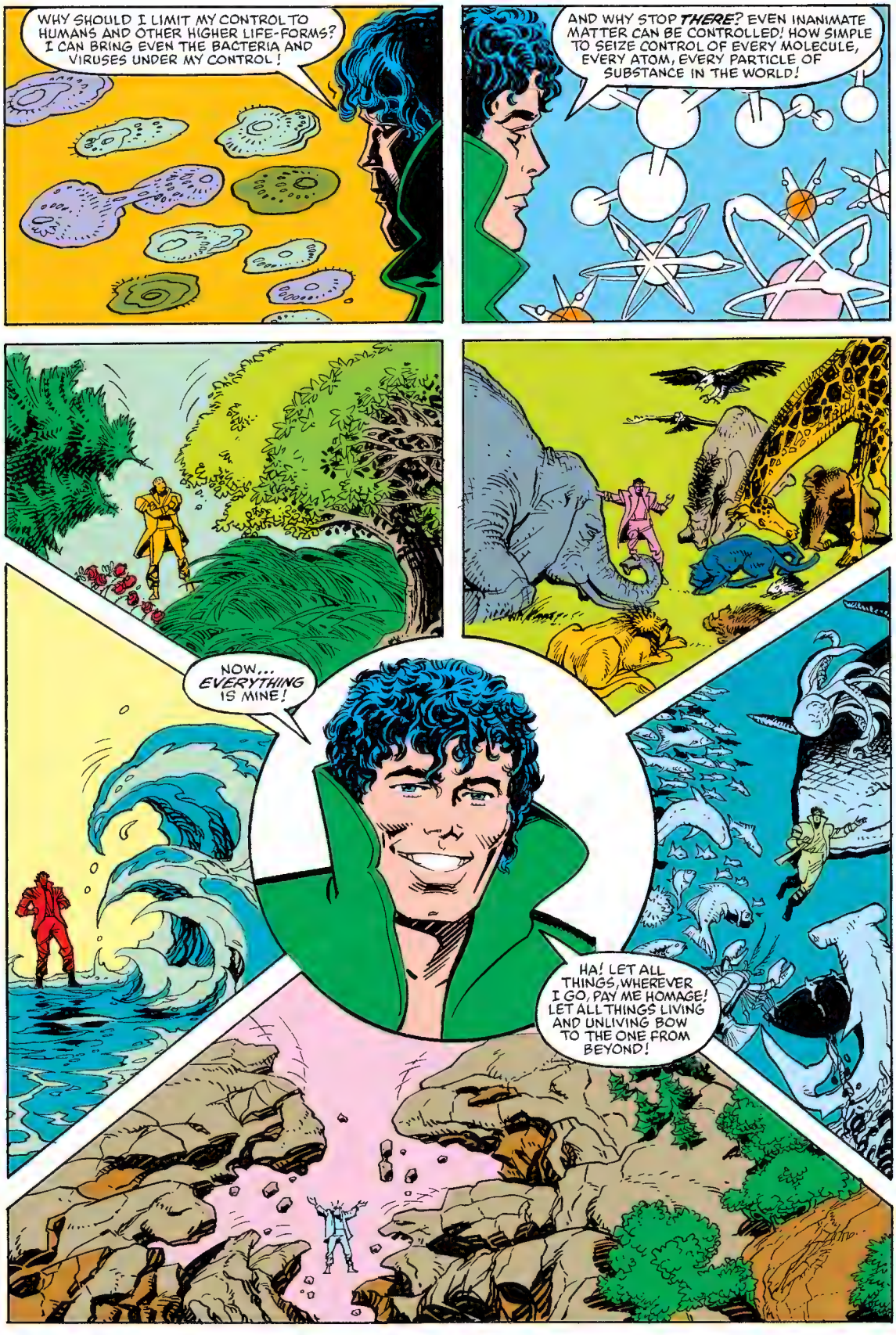
WOW! IT'S NO WONDER YOU HAVE THIS CUTE LITTLE TUMMY!
I ADORE IT! HOW DARLING!
HMM... I SENSE THAT YOUR WORDS DO NOT MATCH YOUR THOUGHTS! YOU ACTUALLY FIND THIS ACCUMULATION OF BODY FAT REPUGNANT!

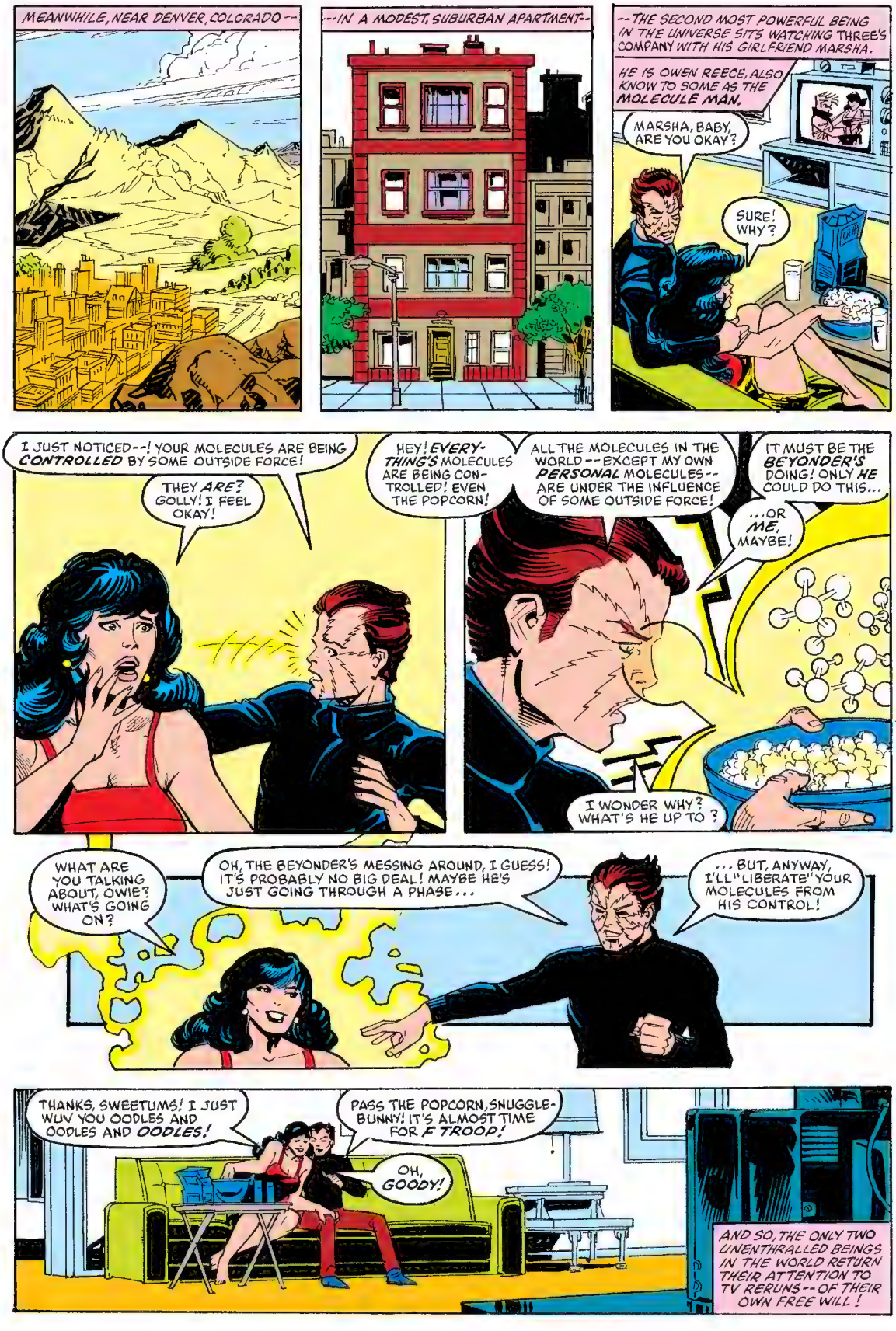

N-NO! REALLY...
NO MATTER! IT IS EASILY REMOVED BY REDUCING IT TO ENERGY!

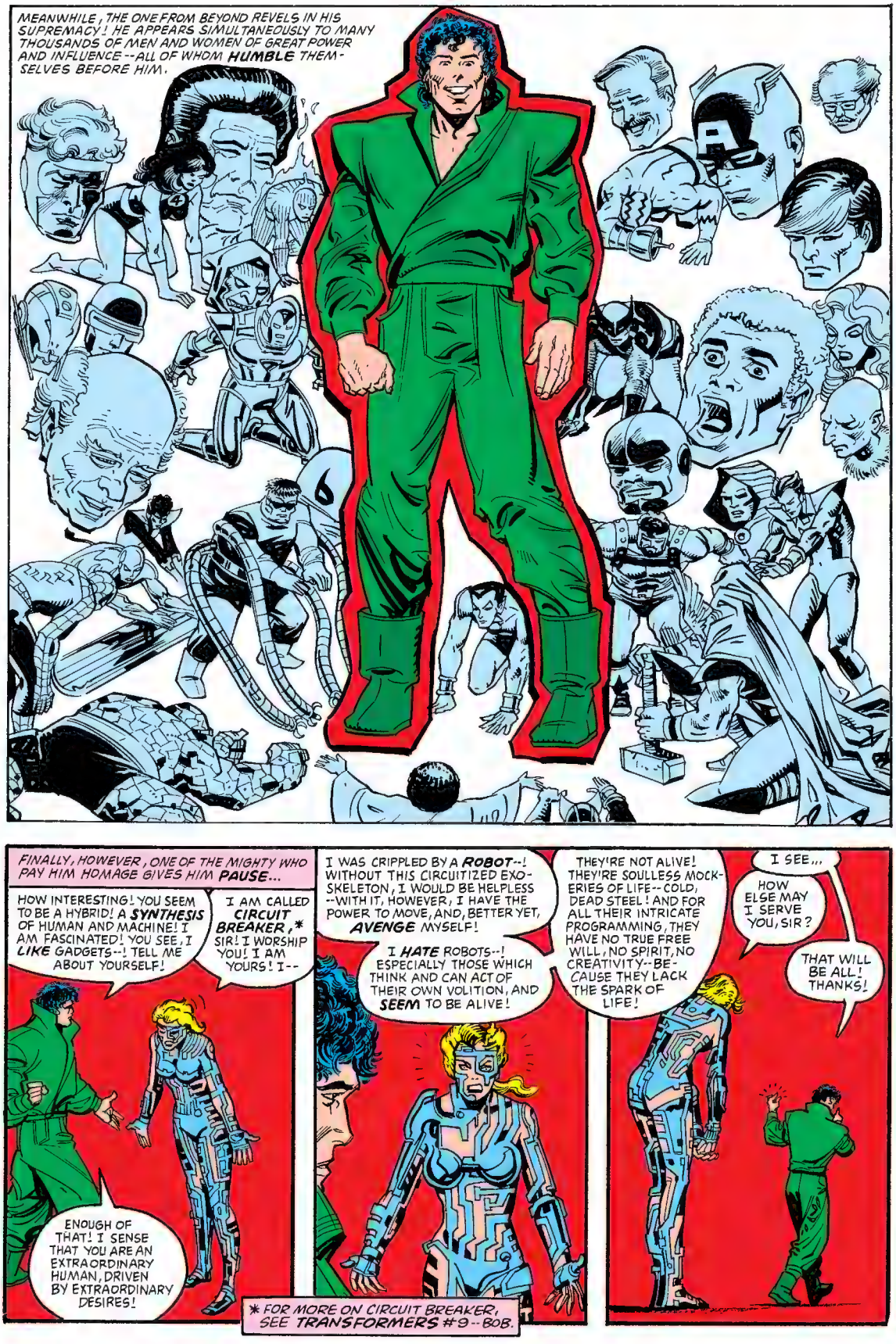

THERE! NOW FOR LUNCH! AND DESSERT!
FRANKIE, YOU--YOU'RE AMAZING!

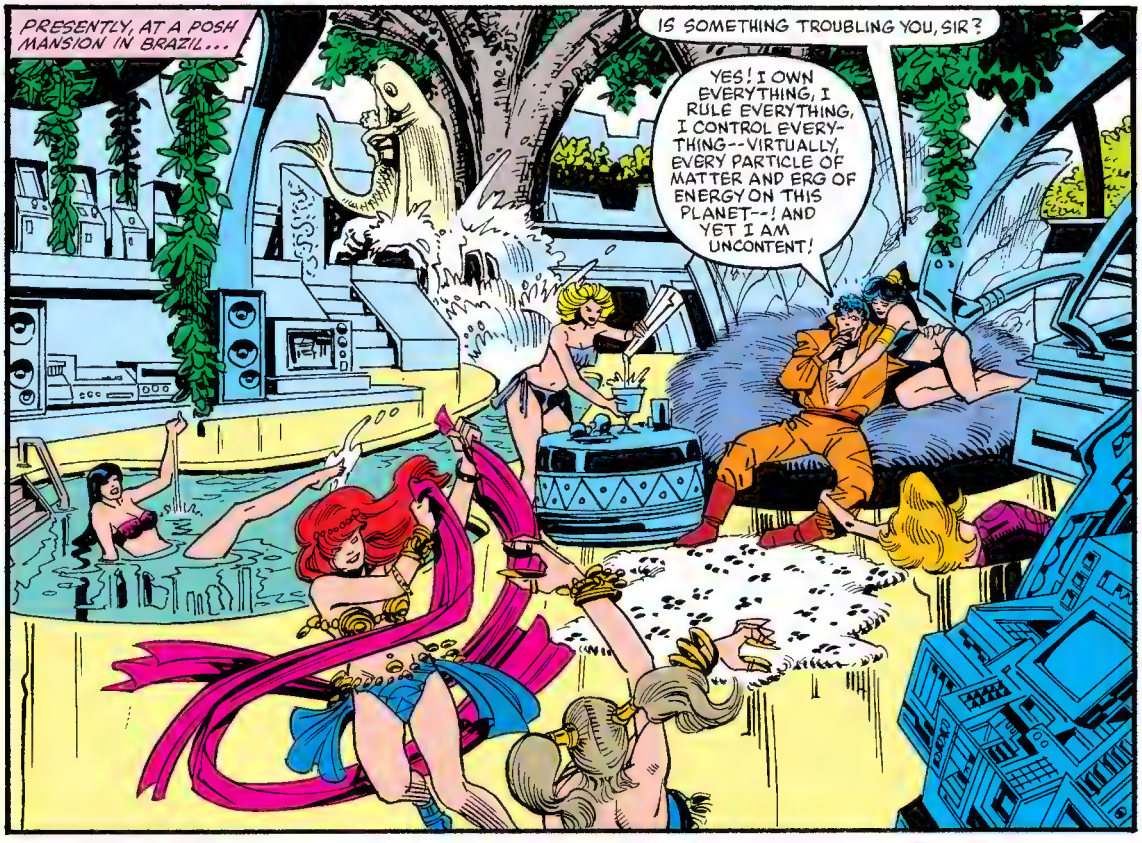

LATER...
WHERE ARE WE GOING?
LET'S GO BELOW DECKS AGAIN, LOVER!
NO! SORRY! IT'S TIME FOR BUSINESS!
WHAT KIND OF BUSINESS?
THERE IS A MAN CALLED THE KINGPIN WHO WORKS OUT OF OFFICES IN MANHATTAN...
HE IS THE MOST POWERFUL CRIME LORD IN THE WORLD! THERE IS HARDLY AN ILLEGAL OPERATION ON THE EAST COAST THAT HE DOES NOT OWN, CONTROL, OR HAVE A PIECE OF!
OTHER, SMALLER CRIME BOSSES--LIKE VINNIE CORBO--PAY THE KINGPIN PERCENTAGES OF THEIR GROSS, PLUS TRIBUTE--OR HE DESTROYS THEM!
I AM GOING TO MEET WITH THIS MAN--AND MUSCLE IN ON HIS OPERATION!
SHORTLY...
HELLO, KINGPIN!
WHAT--? WHO IS SO STUPID AS TO BREAK IN HERE?
I DON'T KNOW HOW YOU GOT PAST MY GUARDS, BUT YOU SHALL REGRET IT! I'LL CRUSH YOU WITH MY BARE HANDS!
NO, YOU WON'T! YOU'LL DO AS I SAY--
--JUST LIKE YOUR MEN! THEY'RE MY MEN NOW!
YOU CAN'T RESIST ME, KINGPIN! I'M ALL-POWERFUL!
YOU ARE! I CAN FEEL IT!
LOOK, I'LL KEEP YOU ON AS MY LIEUTENANT, OKAY? BUT YOU'LL TAKE ORDERS FROM ME--AND GIVE ME NINETY PERCENT OF YOUR TAKE! OKAY?
I--I CAN'T REFUSE! MY WILL IS...
MINE!

THANKS, KINGPIN! SOME OF MY LACKEYS WILL BE IN TOUCH!
I'LL SERVE YOU WELL, SIR!
BOY! THAT WAS QUICK AND EASY!
TOO EASY! I WAS MEANT FOR BIGGER THINGS! BUT, NOW WHAT? HMM...
THE NEXT DAY...
AS YOU INSTRUCTED, MR... UH...
CALL ME FRANK, MR. PRESIDENT!
YES, SIR! AS YOU INSTRUCTED, ALL OF OUR NATION'S TOP MILITARY AND GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS ARE PRESENT TO SWEAR OUR ALLEGIANCE TO YOU! OUR WILL...
...IS MINE! OF COURSE! SO ...THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA IS UNDER MY CONTROL!
NOT BAD... BUT NOT ENOUGH! WHY SETTLE FOR JUST ONE COUNTRY WHEN I CAN RULE THE WHOLE WORLD JUST BY DECIDING TO!
WITH JUST A THOUGHT I SUBJECT ALL WHO LIVE TO MY WILL-- WITHOUT RESISTANCE, WITHOUT A DOUBT... WITHOUT EXCEPTION!
HMM... WELL, NO, THERE IS ONE EXCEPTION! HE'S SORT OF A SPECIAL CASE! BUT HE ISN'T A PROBLEM TO ME! I CAN ALWAYS DEAL WITH HIM LATER IF I WISH!
BUT... THIS IS STILL NOT ENOUGH!

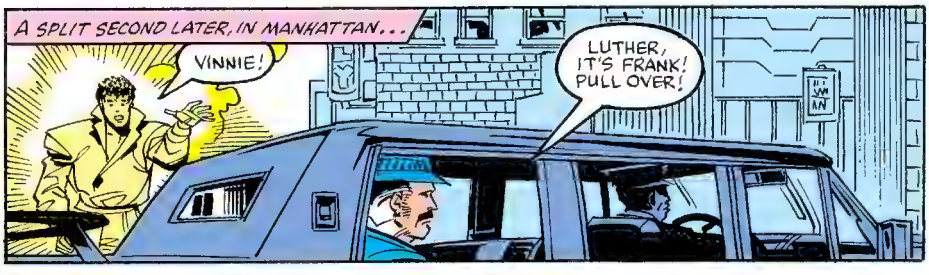

WHY SHOULD I LIMIT MY CONTROL TO HUMANS AND OTHER HIGHER LIFE-FORMS? I CAN BRING EVEN THE BACTERIA AND VIRUSES UNDER MY CONTROL!
AND WHY STOP *THERE*? EVEN INANIMATE MATTER CAN BE CONTROLLED! HOW SIMPLE TO SEIZE CONTROL OF EVERY MOLECULE, EVERY ATOM, EVERY PARTICLE OF SUBSTANCE IN THE WORLD!
NOW... *EVERYTHING* IS MINE!
HA! LET ALL THINGS, WHEREVER I GO, PAY ME HOMAGE! LET ALL THINGS LIVING AND UNLIVING BOW TO THE ONE FROM BEYOND!


MEANWHILE, NEAR DENVER, COLORADO--
--IN A MODEST, SUBURBAN APARTMENT--
--THE SECOND MOST POWERFUL BEING IN THE UNIVERSE SITS WATCHING THREE'S COMPANY WITH HIS GIRLFRIEND MARSHA.
HE IS OWEN REECE, ALSO KNOWN TO SOME AS THE MOLECULE MAN.
MARSHA, BABY, ARE YOU OKAY?
SURE! WHY?
I JUST NOTICED--! YOUR MOLECULES ARE BEING CONTROLLED BY SOME OUTSIDE FORCE!
THEY ARE? GOLLY! I FEEL OKAY!
HEY! EVERYTHING'S MOLECULES ARE BEING CONTROLLED! EVEN THE POPCORN!
ALL THE MOLECULES IN THE WORLD--EXCEPT MY OWN PERSONAL MOLECULES--ARE UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF SOME OUTSIDE FORCE!
IT MUST BE THE BEYONDER'S DOING! ONLY HE COULD DO THIS...
...OR ME, MAYBE!
I WONDER WHY? WHAT'S HE UP TO?
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT, OWIE? WHAT'S GOING ON?
OH, THE BEYONDER'S MESSING AROUND, I GUESS! IT'S PROBABLY NO BIG DEAL! MAYBE HE'S JUST GOING THROUGH A PHASE...
... BUT, ANYWAY, I'LL "LIBERATE" YOUR MOLECULES FROM HIS CONTROL!
THANKS, SWEETUMS! I JUST WUV YOU OODLES AND OODLES AND OODLES!
PASS THE POPCORN, SNUGGLE-BUNNY! IT'S ALMOST TIME FOR F TROOP!
OH, GOODY!
AND SO, THE ONLY TWO UNENTHRALLED BEINGS IN THE WORLD RETURN THEIR ATTENTION TO TV RERUNS--OF THEIR OWN FREE WILL!


MEANWHILE, THE ONE FROM BEYOND REVELS IN HIS SUPREMACY! HE APPEARS SIMULTANEOUSLY TO MANY THOUSANDS OF MEN AND WOMEN OF GREAT POWER AND INFLUENCE--ALL OF WHOM HUMBLE THEMSELVES BEFORE HIM.
FINALLY, HOWEVER, ONE OF THE MIGHTY WHO PAY HIM HOMAGE GIVES HIM PAUSE...
HOW INTERESTING! YOU SEEM TO BE A HYBRID! A SYNTHESIS OF HUMAN AND MACHINE! I AM FASCINATED! YOU SEE, I LIKE GADGETS--! TELL ME ABOUT YOURSELF!
I AM CALLED CIRCUIT BREAKER,* SIR! I WORSHIP YOU! I AM YOURS! I--
ENOUGH OF THAT! I SENSE THAT YOU ARE AN EXTRAORDINARY HUMAN, DRIVEN BY EXTRAORDINARY DESIRES!
I WAS CRIPPLED BY A ROBOT--! WITHOUT THIS CIRCUITIZED EXO-SKELETON, I WOULD BE HELPLESS --WITH IT, HOWEVER, I HAVE THE POWER TO MOVE, AND, BETTER YET, AVENGE MYSELF!
I HATE ROBOTS--! ESPECIALLY THOSE WHICH THINK AND CAN ACT OF THEIR OWN VOLITION, AND SEEM TO BE ALIVE!
THEY'RE NOT ALIVE! THEY'RE SOULLESS MOCKERIES OF LIFE--COLD, DEAD STEEL! AND FOR ALL THEIR INTRICATE PROGRAMMING, THEY HAVE NO TRUE FREE WILL, NO SPIRIT, NO CREATIVITY--BECAUSE THEY LACK THE SPARK OF LIFE!
I SEE...
HOW ELSE MAY I SERVE YOU, SIR?
THAT WILL BE ALL! THANKS!
* FOR MORE ON CIRCUIT BREAKER, SEE TRANSFORMERS #9--BOB.


PRESENTLY, AT A POSH MANSION IN BRAZIL...
IS SOMETHING TROUBLING YOU, SIR?
YES! I OWN EVERYTHING, I RULE EVERYTHING, I CONTROL EVERY-THING--VIRTUALLY, EVERY PARTICLE OF MATTER AND ERG OF ENERGY ON THIS PLANET--! AND YET I AM UNCONTENT!

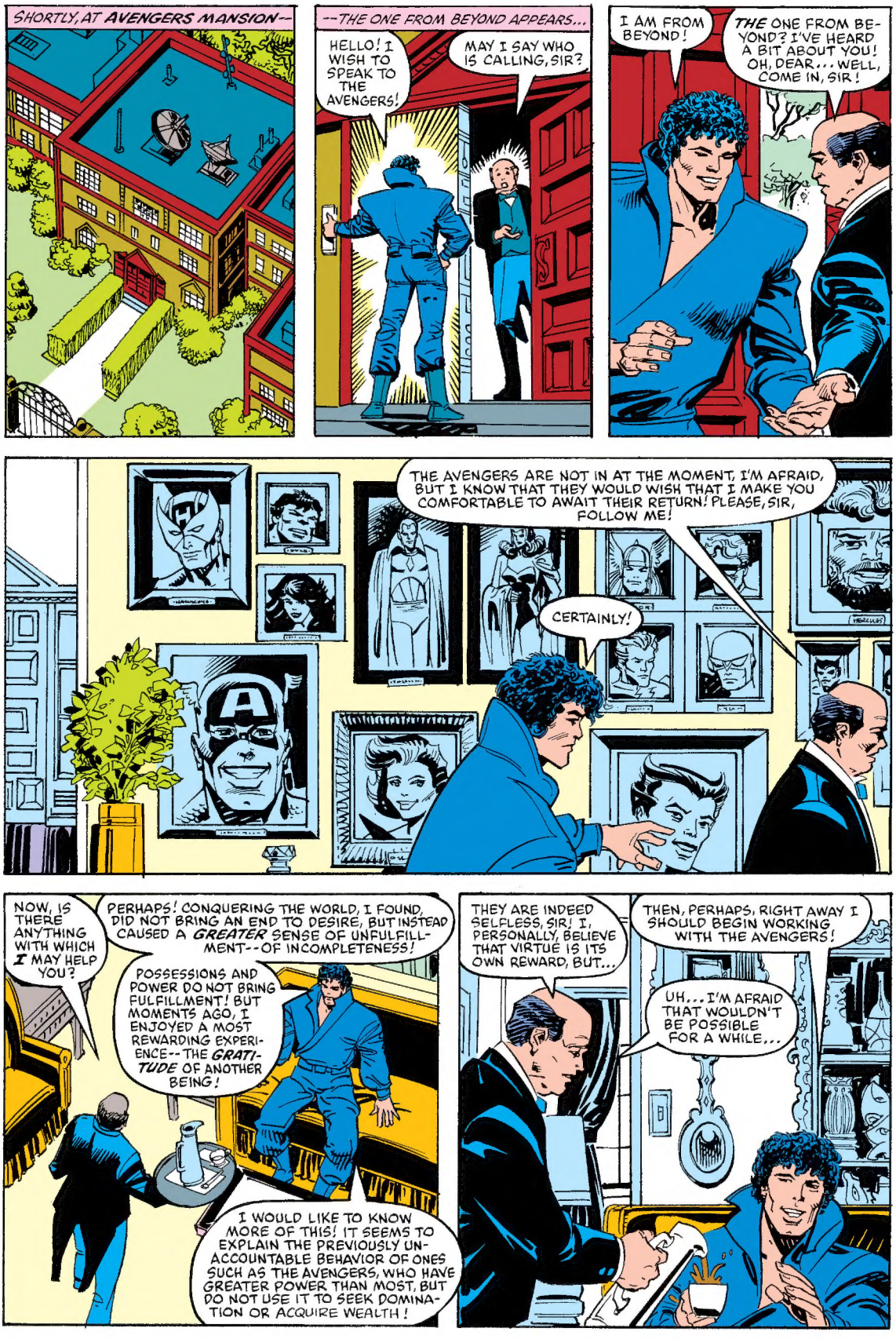
PERHAPS I SHOULD ASK VINNIE WHY THIS IS SO!
OH, NO! HE'S LEAVING!
I MISS HIM ALREADY! HE'S SO... EVERY-THING!


A SPLIT SECOND LATER, IN MANHATTAN...
VINNIE!
LUTHER, IT'S FRANK! PULL OVER!

YOU SAID IF I EVER NEEDED ADVICE I COULD COME TO YOU!
OF COURSE, SIR! YOU ARE THE ABSOLUTE MASTER OF EVERYTHING! I AM YOURS TO COMMAND!
TELL ME THEN-- WHY AM I NOT CONTENT? WHY DO I STILL KNOW DESIRE?
BEATS ME, SIR!

BUT I LEARNED FROM YOUR EXAMPLE! I FOLLOWED YOUR INSTRUCTIONS-- AND CARRIED THEM OUT TO THEIR LOGICAL ENDS! NOW WHAT?
I--I WANT TO HELP YOU, SIR, HONESTLY, BUT I CAN'T!
THEN I SHALL GO ELSEWHERE!

ACROSS TOWN...
TOOTS! YOU TAUGHT ME MUCH THAT FIRST NIGHT! PERHAPS THERE IS YET ONE MORE THING THAT YOU CAN TEACH ME!
OF COURSE I SHALL, SIR, IF I CAN!
I POSSESS ALL THERE IS! WHY IS THAT NOT ENOUGH? DO YOU KNOW?
I KNOW THAT I AM YOURS, EVERY BIT OF ME! I WORSHIP--
ENOUGH! PERHAPS...IN CONTROLLING EVERYONE I HAVE SOMEHOW EXTINGUISHED THE "SPARK" CIRCUIT BREAKER SPOKE OF, MAKING ALL HUMANS LIKE THE AUTOMATONS SHE DESPISES--SLAVISH TO MY WILL AS THOUGH IT WERE A PROGRAM!
MAYBE, IF I FREE YOUR WILL...
WOW...
LOOK AT ME, FRANK! I'VE GIVEN UP MY OLD LIFE WORKING FOR CHULO! I'VE GOT A REGULAR JOB NOW! I'M A WAITRESS!
AND IT'S ALL THANKS TO YOU!
YOU SEE--I NEVER HAD MUCH ...AND NOBODY EVER TREATED ME NICE--BUT YOU DID! AND WHEN YOU SAID PEOPLE WERE JUST PEOPLE TO YOU, I REALIZED THAT I COULD BE LIKE OTHER PEOPLE--LIKE DECENT PEOPLE!
I KNEW THEN THAT THERE MUST BE SOMETHING GOOD INSIDE OF ME--AND IF I COULD FIND IT...AND STOP HATING MYSELF--THAT I WOULDN'T HAVE TO BE A SLEAZE ANYMORE! I COULD BE OKAY!
GOD, I LOVE YOU! MMM...
BUT, I KNOW WE COULD NEVER BE TOGETHER, FRANK--YOU'VE GOT A WHOLE LIFE OF CATCHING UP TO DO--BUT, YOU KNOW... SO DO I NOW!
GOOD-BYE, FRANK! THINK OF ME NOW AND THEN, WILL YOU? AND...THANKS!
THE ONE FROM BEYOND PONDERS--
--THEN RELEASES THE WORLD AND EVERYTHING IN IT, LEAVING NAUGHT BUT THE VAGUEST SHADOW OF A MEMORY OF HIS CONQUEST--AND THAT IN ONLY THE SUBTLEST OF MINDS!


SHORTLY, AT AVENGERS MANSION--
--THE ONE FROM BEYOND APPEARS...
HELLO! I WISH TO SPEAK TO THE AVENGERS!
MAY I SAY WHO IS CALLING, SIR?
I AM FROM BEYOND!
THE ONE FROM BEYOND? I'VE HEARD A BIT ABOUT YOU! OH, DEAR... WELL, COME IN, SIR!
THE AVENGERS ARE NOT IN AT THE MOMENT, I'M AFRAID, BUT I KNOW THAT THEY WOULD WISH THAT I MAKE YOU COMFORTABLE TO AWAIT THEIR RETURN! PLEASE, SIR, FOLLOW ME!
CERTAINLY!
NOW, IS THERE ANYTHING WITH WHICH I MAY HELP YOU?
PERHAPS! CONQUERING THE WORLD, I FOUND, DID NOT BRING AN END TO DESIRE, BUT INSTEAD CAUSED A GREATER SENSE OF UNFULFILLMENT--OF INCOMPLETENESS!
POSSESSIONS AND POWER DO NOT BRING FULFILLMENT! BUT MOMENTS AGO, I ENJOYED A MOST REWARDING EXPERIENCE--THE GRATITUDE OF ANOTHER BEING!
I WOULD LIKE TO KNOW MORE OF THIS! IT SEEMS TO EXPLAIN THE PREVIOUSLY UNACCOUNTABLE BEHAVIOR OF ONES SUCH AS THE AVENGERS, WHO HAVE GREATER POWER THAN MOST, BUT DO NOT USE IT TO SEEK DOMINATION OR ACQUIRE WEALTH!
THEY ARE INDEED SELFLESS, SIR! I, PERSONALLY, BELIEVE THAT VIRTUE IS ITS OWN REWARD, BUT...
THEN, PERHAPS, RIGHT AWAY I SHOULD BEGIN WORKING WITH THE AVENGERS!
UH... I'M AFRAID THAT WOULDN'T BE POSSIBLE FOR A WHILE...

YOU SEE, THEY'RE IN THE SKRULL GALAXY RIGHT NOW!
I KNOW! I SHALL JOIN THEM THERE AT ONCE!
WHAT--?
OH, MY... PERHAPS I SHOULDN'T HAVE MENTIONED WHERE THEY WERE! I HOPE HE ISN'T... TROUBLESOME!
SOMEWHERE IN THE SKRULL GALAXY, THE ONE FROM BEYOND MATERIALIZES IN THE MIDST OF A RAGING BATTLE--
--ONLY TO RETURN, HOURS LATER, TO MANHATTAN'S FIFTH AVENUE--
GRAYSTN
--VERY DEPRESSED!
I REALLY MADE A MESS OF THAT! IT WAS HORRIBLE ...DISASTROUS!
OH, WELL...
BUT... ANOTHER POSSIBILITY OCCURS TO ME! I THINK I COMPREHEND, AT LAST, SOMETHING VINNIE EXPLAINED TO ME ONCE-- ABOUT SPORT AND GAMBLING!
PERHAPS IT IS THE TRYING, NOT THE DOING, IN WHICH FULFILLMENT LIES!
I HAVE A PLAN! A GAME TO PLAY! FIRST I'LL NEED A LAWYER-- ONE USED TO UNUSUAL LEGAL WORK! ONE WITH NO FEAR OF ANYTHING!
THE AVENGERS LAWYER, MATT MURDOCK IS PERFECT! I'LL GO SEE HIM RIGHT NOW!

NEXT

The story continues in *Daredevil* #223, wherein the services of Nelson and Murdock, Attorneys at Law, are retained by the One from Beyond . . .

And in *Hulk* #312 wherein the One from Beyond learns of the many other dimensions and hidden realms which are part of our many-layered universe (*Asgard, The Dark Dimension*, and *Mephisto's Realm* to name a few!),and also learns the length and breadth of a man's soul trapped in the body of a savage green goliath!

In *Avengers* #260, find out just what happened in the Skrull Galaxy. It's . . . not a pretty sight!

One month from now, the threads of the epic saga of the Beyonder are gathered again in *Secret Wars II* #4,which guest-stars the *Avengers* (sort of), *Alpha Flight*, the cast of *ROM* (briefly) and the *DAZZLER!* Do not miss . . .

"LOVE IS THE ANSWER!"

MINUTEMEN
Blutman